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APOLOGY

We apologise to our customers for the non inclusion of our annual paper catalogue in this edition of Australian Orchid Review. Although this was planned to happen, the pressure of work to keep supplying orders, work trade shows during the season, grow new stock for the future & fully list a catalogue by the printing deadline date has proven too much for us.

Please be **sure** our catalogue **definitely** will appear in Australian Orchid Review in the next edition which is due to appear in early December. In the meantime, please check our ever changing offerings at **www.easyorchids.com**

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From the Editor's Desk

Lovers of cymbidiums are in for a real treat this issue, with a bumper feature on this fine genus. Australia leads the way in standard *Cymbidium* breeding, with Gordon Giles (Keith Wallace Pty Ltd) in New South Wales and Peter Sunderland of Kimberley Orchids in Victoria. Over the past few weeks there have been major orchid shows featuring cymbidiums at a number of venues. The shapes and especially the colours have improved dramatically over the years.

The 2007 National Orchid Extravaganza hosted by the Cymbidium Club of Australia (NSW) was an outstanding show, with the hall packed with quality blooms. Peter Moore gives us an account of this major event which is a "must-see" of cymbid enthusiasts. Grand Champion was the imposing and impressive *Cymbidium* Wyong Flame 'Dural'. I believe there are a few mericlones of this choice plant still available at $50 – from its limited release. It's not often you get the opportunity of purchasing a piece or clone of the overall champion.

We also have reports on some of the other major orchid events from around the country, including the OSCOV-Collectors Corner Melbourne Orchid Spectacular, the Victorian Country Challenge, the Cymbidium Orchid Club of Western Australia and the St Ives Orchid Fair held in Sydney. There is also a pictorial on the 50th Golden Anniversary Show of the Manning River Orchid Society (NSW).

Justin Tkatchenko has provided an excellent piece on *Dendrobium cuthbertsonii* as it grows in the wild at Tari Gap in Papua New Guinea. This is one of the worlds most stunning and sought after orchid species, with blooms that can last up to nine months. There is also a review of a new book featuring New Guinea dendrobiums – *Spatulata Orchids of Papua New Guinea*. We have published quite a bit on New Guinea orchids over the past twelve months and these have always proved popular with readers. PNG is becoming quite a tourist destination for interested orchid enthusiasts with the opportunity of seeing exotic orchids in the wild. There are travel details in this and the previous issue that featured many fine photographs taken by Ian Nelson.

Keith Ryan has written another short article providing some timely pointers to growing softcane dendrobiums. Make sure you have a look at 'Starburst', one of Keith's seedlings.

The concept of regular Orchid Fairs has certainly taken off. It is a great way for nurseries to promote their product to orchid enthusiasts as well as the general gardening public. There will be some new events starting in 2008. The inaugural Queensland International Orchid Fair will be held at Pine Rivers from 29th February to 2nd March 2008, followed by the Sydney International Orchid Fair at Castle Hill Showground from 4th – 6th April 2008 and later the Victorian International Orchid Fair from 16th – 18th May 2008. More details can be obtained from the website www.orchidfair.com.au Orchids Out West will also be held at Clarendon (near Richmond Air Force base) in early May 2008, sponsored by Blue Mountains, Hawkesbury and Blacktown Orchid Societies. Mark your diaries now.

David Banks
Australian Orchid Review
davidpbanks@veritel.com.au

OUR COVER

Dendrobium cuthbertsonii at Tari Gap in the Southern Highlands of New Guinea. The story and photographs of this orchid by Justin Tkatchenko starts on page 19 of this issue.

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2007

Above: *Cymbidium* Wyong Flame 'Dural' (Gordon Giles)

Left: *Cymbidium* Wyong Flame 'Dural' and Gordon Giles

National Orchid Extravaganza

by Peter Moore (with photos by David Banks)

Wow, it has happened yet again! This year's National Orchid Extravaganza hosted by the Cymbidium Club of Australia (New South Wales) was our best to date. Again Mother Nature blessed us with perfect weather and that made the task at hand more pleasurable. Members of the Cymbidium Club of Australia (CCA-NSW) laid out the venue on the Wednesday afternoon and the members put the benches and partitions in place in record time. This then gave some enthusiastic members the opportunity to make a start on their floor displays and others had the chance to create their table top displays. Before I go any further, I must publicly thank those members who put in the physical work on Wednesday. It was a really great effort.

This then gave us a great head start, for on the Thursday the members came to the fore with their plants and quickly filled the stadium. There were many beautiful orchids on display. This year we introduced into our club shows a cut stem section. This allows members who are unable to carry large heavy pots of orchids another avenue to display their brilliant flowers. With this new class and the recently introduced bloom class this gives the members no excuse not to exhibit any of their plants or flowers.

With the benches full before 11.30am the judges were then convened. This year the specially selected judges had the job in front of them, as the standard was the highest that I have seen in years. With the job done (and no complaints that I am aware of), the members who were putting on floor or table top displays then had the venue to themselves. This is when the fun begins when you can stand back and watch long time married couples bickering like kids over what orchid goes where, or how much foliage should be in the display. The good result is they soon get over it and all in back to normal.

The judges were then asked some hours later to then judge all the displays. Again the standard was high and a lot of effort was put in before the show to make sure that the displays went together perfectly on the day. The range of shapes, styles and colours in many of the newer *Cymbidium* hybrids was just breathtaking, with almost every possible combination on display.

At this stage the venue was complete and looked absolutely fantastic as we had filled the entire complex. With cymbidiums displayed in every possible and practical way,

this show was definitely the best yet. The only task still to do was to place the winning sashes and rosettes on the plants and displays along with the prize cards.

Grand Champion of the Show and Champion Large Flower went to *Cymbidium* Wyong Flame 'Dural' (a cross between Wyong Ruby and Lunar Flame) that was hybridised and exhibited by Gordon Giles of Keith Wallace Pty Ltd. This was a huge flower with excellent shape, substance, colour and spike habit. It is a very classy orchid indeed. Mericlones of this plant have only recently been released, making it available to the wider orchid community.

Cymbidium Vanity Fair 'Hollywood' (Bob Battye)

Cymbidium Wyong Flame 'Dural' (Gordon Giles)

Major Prizewinners 2007

Grand Champion Of Show: *Cym.*

2007 *Cymbidium* display by Norm & Val Shipway

Wyong Flame 'Dural' (Gordon Giles, Keith Wallace P/L)
Reserve Champion Of Show: *Cym.* Ruby Valley Box of Chocolates' (Brian Janes)

Cymbidium Ruby Valley 'Box of Chocolates' (Brian Janes)

Champion Large Flower: *Cym.* Wyong Flame 'Dural' (Gordon Giles, Keith Wallace P/L)
Champion Small Standard: *Cym.* Vanity Fair 'Hollywood' (Bob Battye)
Champion Intermediate: *Cym.* Ruby

Cymbidium Blazing Dream 'Mini World' (Helen Palmer)

Cymbidium Autumn Emerald 'Royale' (Terry Davis)

Valley 'Box of Chocolates' (Brian Janes)
Champion Miniature: *Cym.* Sarah Jean 'Rose on Ice' (Rob Wells, Tinonee Orchids)
Champion Display: Norm & Valerie Shipway

Cymbidium Girraween 'Valerie' (Norm & Val Shipway)

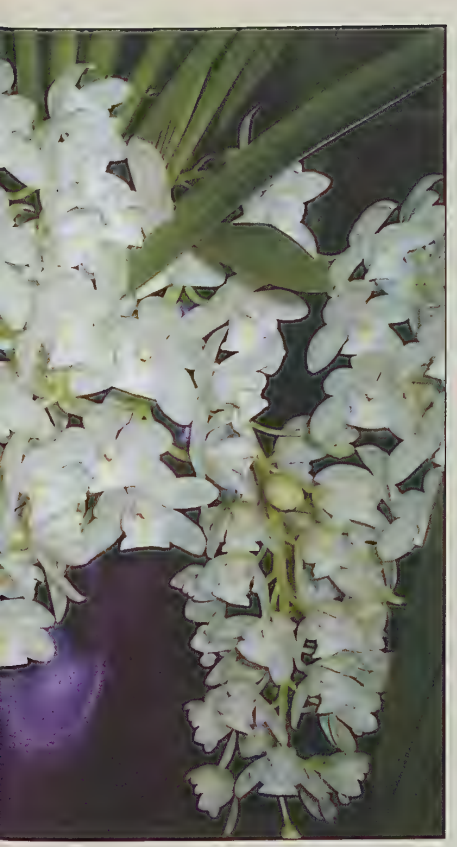
Cymbidium Sarah Jean 'Castel' (Kevin Black)

Cymbidium Sarah Jean 'Rose on Ice' (Rob Wells)

Champion Other Genera: *Zygopetalum* Kiwi Choice 'Eileen' (Peter Wise)

At 9.00 the next morning the doors opened to the public and at once people

Cymbidium Sarah Jean 'Pink' (T.Yee)



started to stream through the doors. It wasn't long before customers were busy buying all different kinds of orchids from the many highly professional vendors that

adorned the venue. It was a great sight to see so many quality cymbidiums that were being sold. This was the same or all three days. The amount of plants that went out the door was astonishing. It was particularly pleasing to see at the end of the event, that the vendors went home with few left-over plants.

Whilst on that subject our sincere thanks to all these vendors who travelled many kilometres to be at our show, many from interstate. It is a great testament to you and we enjoy having all of you join us annually. We also had visitors to the show from various parts of Australia and New Zealand.

On the Saturday night we had a dinner at one of the local restaurants and the ven-

Cymbidium Khan Flame 'OC' (David Keanelly)

Cymbidium Forest Palace 'Royale'

Cymbidium (Memoria Merv Dunn x Fluoro) (Louie Friess)

dors and club members had a great night. It is always good to get away from the venue, have a good feed and talk orchids with these guys in a relaxed atmosphere.

We also had a small area of orchids of other genera which only added to the quality of the plants that were present this year. Over all, the orchid were fantastic and credit must go to all those who exhibited. The commercial growers and the hobbyists really outdid themselves this year.

Then all too quickly the many months of organisation comes to an end and on the Sunday when it is time to pull the show down. Away from the hype of the show I must sincerely thank the New South Wales Bush Fire Brigade, Baulkham Hills District Communications Brigade assisted by the Glenorie Brigade for their efforts in running the BBQ over the 4 days in keeping not only us but the many visitors to the show, fed. It was a great effort and I believe a lot of fun was also had.

I must also mention Nash Patel and the Good Guys of Castle Hill and the Quest Apartments, Castle Hill. These two sponsors are truly amazing. Each year they donate great prizes to us, which enables us to raffle these wonderful donations and raise money for the Westmead Children's Hospital. It is great to have them on board with us an on behalf of the Kids we say a big hearty Thank You.

Lastly, the club members. This year we

Cymbidium (Alexandra Beauty x Lunara) (Geoff LeMarne)

was definitely the best show ever and credit must go to all those club members who took the time to come and help before, during and after the show. Special thanks must go to Keith and Fay Harris for the hundreds of hours and many miles done prior to the show starting. It is this dedication that makes it all worthwhile. I know it's a cliché but many hands do make light work and this year we excelled. So, thank you very much for all your efforts over the entire five days. Let's hope that next year we can do it even bigger than this year and continue to make this show the premier orchid show on the Sydney calendar.

Peter Moore
Email: pmo64129@bigpond.net.au

Left: *Cymbidium* (Penorc Reality x Ginger Wall) (Tinonee Orchids)

Below: *Cymbidium* Lunar Glow 'Strawberries & Cream' (Gordon Giles)

Cymbidium Amber Sands 'Harlequin' (Gordon Giles)

Cymbidium Amber Sands 'Harlequin' (Gordon Giles)

Cymbidium Amber Wall 'Sovereign' (Gordon Giles)

Cymbidium Foxfire Amber 'Dural' (Gordon Giles)

Cymbidium Pepper Blaze 'Syrah' (Gordon Giles)

Cymbidium Albryant 'Super Star' (Gordon Giles)

Zygopetalum Kiwi Choice 'Eileen' (Peter Wise)

Tari, in the Southern Highlands of New Guinea: the home for *Dendrobium cuthbertsonii*

Text and photos by Justin Tkatchenko BEM

Tari in the Southern Highlands of Papua New Guinea is the home of many beautiful and unique orchids, but the one that stands out like the jewel in the crown is *Dendrobium cuthbertsonii*. Just recently I went to Tari to film a documentary on the region for the national television station - EMTV. I have been to Tari over a dozen times in the past 14 years that I have been living in Papua New Guinea, but on every trip I am always surprised by the unbelievable splendour and abundance of its orchids.

In 1995 when I was the Curator of the National Capital Botanical Gardens, we set up the first highlands orchid collection in Ambua, Tari at the Ambua Lodge where we had an amazing collection of highlands orchids collected from all over New Guinea. This collection is now a tourist attraction and is maintained by the lodge. My most recent trip took me up to the Tari Gap where we trekked through highland grasslands and mist forests.

Throughout this adventure, we spotted and found hundreds of plants of *Dendrobium cuthbertsonii* in all different shapes, forms and colours of the rainbow. The interesting thing about this orchid is that it grows as a terrestrial as well as an epiphyte. You can find them growing freely on the road side cuttings in the moss covered ground, as well as on tree ferns and trees in the mist forests.

The region and especially Tari was badly affected seven years ago by the el Niño effect causing fires that destroyed ancient rainforest and grasslands, the main habitat for these orchids. Unfortunately many of the prime sites that had beautiful clumps of *Dendrobium cuthbertsonii* were burnt and destroyed. But nature had its way and remarkably as we were heading back through a grassland valley of the Tari Gap where we came upon an area that wasn't burnt and destroyed by fire.

To my disbelief, I noticed from a distance a single large tree fern stand-

Justin Tkatchenko with *Dendrobium cuthbertsonii* at Tari Gap, PNG.

ing by itself in the middle of the grassed valley, covered in the brilliant long-lasting red flowers of *Dendrobium cuthbertsonii*. The tree fern looked like it was glowing like hot embers from a fire. The plants that covered the tree fern were large healthy clumps that had over 70 flowers radiating from them. I had never seen orchids growing like this before and in such mass and colour. It was definitely an amazing sight to behold. Why this tree fern survived the fires no-one knows, and as you can see from the photos you can walk right up to the plants.

All I can say it is a natural wonder that has to be seen to be believed. So for those mad orchid enthusiasts out there, if you ever get a chance, pay a visit to Tari in the Southern Highlands, Papua New Guinea just to witness these natural beauties in all their glory.

Justin W. Tkatchenko BEM
PNG Gardener

Trans Niugini Tours Ltd (PO Box 371, Mt. Hagen, Western Highlands Province, PNG. Phone: 542-1438 or Fax: 542-2470) take bookings for Ambua Lodge where these and other orchids may be seen.

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Acknowledging the Wellington region as one of New Zealand's "orchid hotspots", the Department of Conservation has produced a field guide identifying 72 species of wild orchids in the lower North Island. A decade in the making, Wild orchids of the lower North Island features photographs and descriptions, encouraging people to make spotting our elusive orchids a feature of their forays into the wild – to help prevent some of our rarest species from going extinct, and enhance knowledge of orchid distribution.

The book was launched on 4th September 2007 at Otari-Wilton's Bush in Wellington by Conservation Minister Chris Carter. "We want to inspire people to head out and explore the region's parks and reserves while searching for orchids that, once found, can be left for others to enjoy," said Department of Conservation (DOC) botanist John Sawyer, who co-authored the book with Peter de Lange, one of New Zealand's leading plant conservation scientists; photographer and botanist Jeremy Rolfe, and national orchid expert Ian St George.

"DOC is interested in orchids because, while much of the global interest is in the cultivation of exotic forms and varieties, there is also the most important work of protecting wild populations," Mr Sawyer said. "Wetlands, dunes and forests continue to be degraded through development, drainage and the effects of exotic animals and weeds so the need to protect wild orchids becomes ever more pressing," he said. Mr Sawyer said Wellington was a hotspot for orchids because of its huge diversity of habitat types and ecosystems, ranging from the dry eastern Wairarapa terrain, to sub-alpine areas and wetlands, estuaries, and the coast. "More than 70 percent of New Zealand's orchids occur in Wellington and each of the species has its own character. Many species are so tiny few people would ever know there were there," Mr Sawyer said.

Orchids have been revered for thousands of years and are often regarded as the world champions of flowers. "We encourage the public to keep an eye out for wild orchids and let us know if they see anyone removing plants from the wild," Mr Sawyer said. "Most of our native orchids require some sort of fungal association in the soil so the chance of them surviving in a garden is slim. They should be left in the wild for people to enjoy," he said. DOC is working with landowners, councils, and community groups to protect nationally threatened orchids at key sites.

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***Dendrobium* Silver Bells** is a style of *Dendrobium* hybrid not often seen in Sydney. This plant, owned by Gowan Stewart, is a third generation hybrid with only two Philippine taxa in its makeup, *D. schuetzei* (62.5%) and *D. sanderae* (37.5%), spectacular species many would be unfamiliar with. I would suspect that *D. sanderae* var. *major* was the variety used on account of the size of the segments. The officiating judges declared this plant Grand Champion of the Show. Ironically this plant was purchased a couple of years ago from Vallance's Orchids at the same venue, I know because I bought a couple as well and was comparing notes to Gowan!

St Ives Orchid Fair 2007

Text and photos by David Banks

The 2007 St Ives Orchid Fair and Show was held again in mid-August at the St Ives Showgrounds. This is a joint initiative, started in 2000 between four local orchid societies: Ku-ring-gai Orchid Society, Manly Warringah Orchid Society, North Shore Orchid Society, and the Warringah Group of the Australasian Native Orchid Society. Two halls are filled with orchids, one with over 20 different vendors selling a wide range of flowering and unusual orchids as well as related products pertinent to the hobby. The exhibition hall has numerous manicured floor and table-top displays of orchids, presented primarily by the host orchid societies, nurseries and individual enthusiastic growers. It is a credit to the St Ives Orchid Fair Committee Chairman Bernie Britton and his strong band of volunteers who ensure this is a successful event.

Major Prize winners for 2007 were:

- Grand Champion (and Champion Orchid Hybrid NOS) – ***Dendrobium* Silver Bells**, Gowan Stewart, Wirra Willa Orchids.
- Reserve Champion (and Champion *Paphiopedilum*) – ***Paphiopedilum* Yongala 'Avia'**, Nicky Zurcher, Nicky's Slippers, South Australia.
- Champion Exotic Species – ***Dendrobium lawesii***, Gowan Stewart, Wirra Willa Orchids.
- Champion Standard *Cymbidium* – ***Cymbidium* Wyong Flame 'Myuol'**, Tom & Edith Price.
- Champion Miniature/Intermediate *Cymbidium* – ***Cymbidium* Khanebono 'Balance'**, Barrita Orchids.
- Champion *Laeliinae* – ***Potinara* Paradise 'Ruby'**, Dendi Orchids.
- Champion Australian Native Species – ***Dockrillia teretifolia***, David Butler.
- Champion Australian Native Hybrid – ***Dendrobium* Avril's Gold 'Gosford Gold'**, DUNO.
- Champion Large Display – North Shore Orchid Society.
- Champion Tabletop Display – Dendi Orchids.
- Champion Artwork – Lesley Bromley.

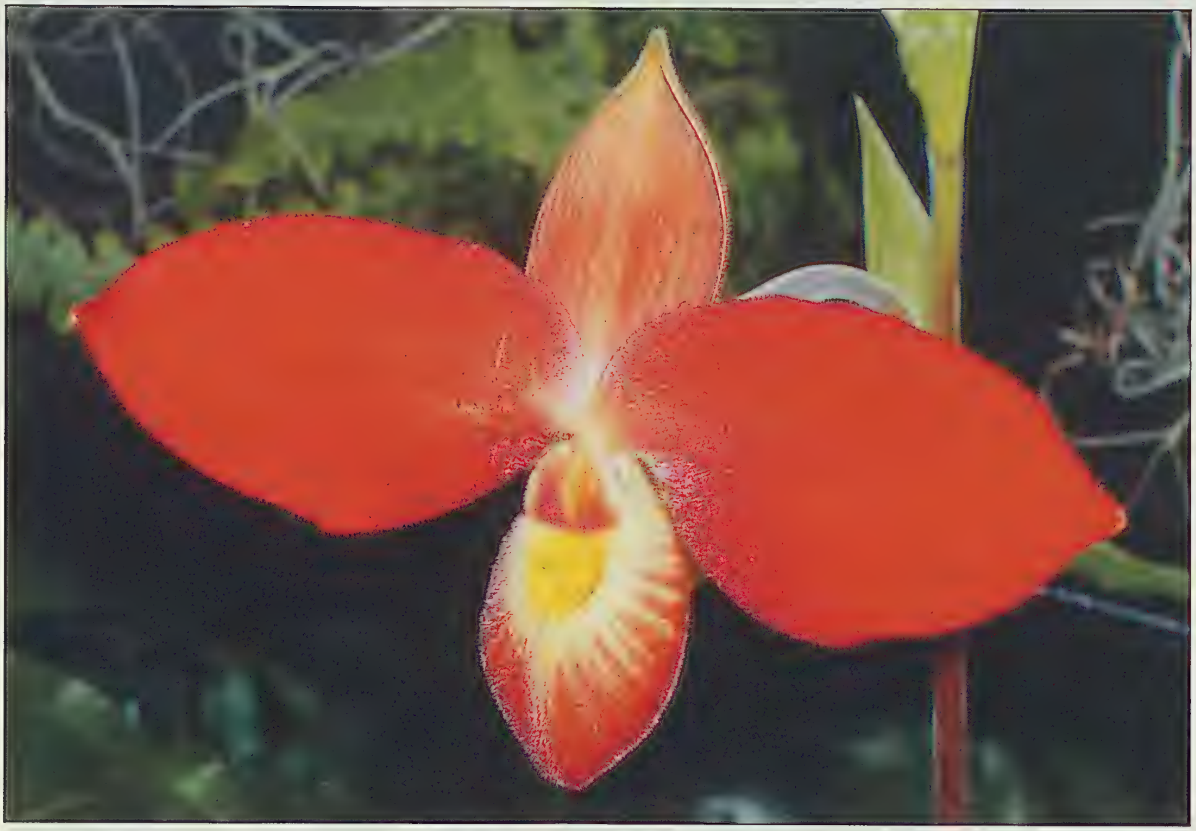
Unfortunately this event seems to always clash with the Melbourne Orchid Spectacular that is held at Collector's Corner in Melbourne. Both are events worth seeing, if you can work out how to be in two places at the same time! The irony is that many Sydneysiders travel south to the Melbourne OSCOV event, yet many travel from interstate to attend St Ives. Not sure which side has the greenest grass!

There were some lovely orchids on show, and many bargains to be had in the sales area. What follows is a snapshot of some of the plants that caught my eye, including some of the prize-winning entries.

David Banks
Seven Hills, NSW
Email: davidpbanks@veritel.com.au

Dendrobium lawesii was another of Gowan Stewart's plants and is certainly one of the best-cultivated examples of this species I have seen. It is a pendulous growing plant, native of New Guinea, and the long lasting flowers come in a range of colours and colour combinations. It is reportedly pollinated by birds in the honeyeater family who mistake the blooms for tubular *Rhododendron* species which provide a nectar reward for the pollinators. This plant was judged Champion Exotic Species of the Show.

Potinara **Firey Leopard 'Lord Loudmouth'** is a bold flower that had been in bloom for many weeks before this show. It's actually a plant I gave to long-time family friends Norm and Val Shipway a while ago. And yes there is a funny story on how this plant came about its cultivar name!



Phragmipedium besseae **'Crimson Pirate'** is owned by Graeme and Craig Scott-Harden. It is hard to believe that this eye-catching species was unknown to the orchid community before its discovery in Peru in 1981. It has since been found in bordering Ecuador. This is a seed-raised plant (that was given a quality award at the show), and possibly an outcross between the type form and the variety *dalessandroi*.

Part of the large display from **Parramatta & District Orchid Society**, featuring an array of fine cymbidiums as the backdrop.

***Sophrocattleya* Royal Beau 'Dendi'** is a very pretty flower with a unique colour combination. There must be some variation in the mericlones as to me it looks quite different (in shape and colour distribution) to the plant of the same name that was awarded a First Class Certificate (OSNSW) in October 2006. [Inset: 2006 FCC Flowering, photo: Courtesy OSNSW Website]

***Phalaenopsis* Dendi's Lip** is a striking hybrid made and exhibited by Dennis Diehm of Dendi Orchids, Griffith. This style of hybrid, with bright deep pink segments and contrasting predominantly white labellum comes from the parent *P.* Hilo Lip, itself emphasising and intensifying the colours of the species *P. schilleriana* which is a dominant parent in this multi-generation complex hybrid.

The colourful Dendi Orchids Display featured an array of different styles of *Phalaenopsis* and a colourful mix of cattleyas and related hybrids with a few novelty slipper orchids for good measure. By using a black cloth background behind the display further enhances the colours of the flowers and ensures the eye focuses solely on the blooms. Dennis Diehm always puts on a bright and well-balanced display with quality orchids and this effort was no exception.

Display featuring Australian native *Dendrobium* species and hybrids by DUNO. There were many first flowering seedlings in this display as well as stand-out plants such as the popular *Dendrobium* Avril's Gold.

This was the winning entry in the Art Section for Lesley Bromley, whose artwork has improved immensely over the years. It depicts the very pretty *Anglocaste* Nowra 'Miss Sarah' FCC/AOC-NSW 2004 owned and grown by Jenny and Theo Schultz, close friends of the Bromley's who commissioned the talented Lesley to do this painting for them.

***Phalaenopsis* Brother Dalmation 'Dendi'** HCC/AOC is an example of the unique "harlequin' style of *Phalaenopsis* hybrids that have been purely derived from a spotted colour mutation of *P.* Golden Peoker, and are being intensely hybridised in Taiwan. Another plant from Dendi Orchids.

Odontocidium 'Massai'. Now this plant wasn't even in the show! One of the vendors, Clive Halls from Mt. Beenak Orchids of Victoria showed me this young mericlone that was blooming for the first time. (Obviously the tray of sales plants he had for sale were snapped up quickly!). It is a dazzling flower with lively dark colours, and flowering off a tiny plant. I cannot see where this name has been registered, and being the result of an imported flask from Europe may in fact be a cultivar name, so Clive will have to track down its full name!

Australasian Native Orchid Society (Qld)

Kabi Group's Fifth Open Australasian Native Orchid Show

Photography by Graham Corbin

The ANOS (Qld) Kabi Group held its 5th Annual Spring Show on 25th and 26th August 2007. Prior to the show there were great concerns regarding the quality and quantity of flowering plants that might be available for display. We have had a most difficult growing season with the weather changing continuously from winter to summer and back to winter – the poor orchids don't know what season it is. South-east Queensland is experiencing the most severe drought for 100 years and in addition level 5 water restrictions are in force which restrict watering from the reticulated supply to a few hours a week. Hence the installation of rainwater tanks is a boom industry. All we have to do now is to wait for rain to fill them.

Dockrilla teretifolia – 2007 Champion Specimen won by Mick Bartlett

Surprisingly our members were able to bench more plants than anticipated and proved to be of very good quality. The Champion Specimen was a plant of *Dockrillia teretifolia* owned by Mick Bartlett and the Champion Hybrid was *Dendrobium* Sarah Jane 'Purvis' owned by Brendan Killen a member of West Brisbane Orchid Society. It is very encouraging to see an increasing number of plants benched by other orchid society members. The Native Orchid Society of Toowoomba sent down more than 20 plants. Roger Finn's plant of *Dockrillia teretifolia* won the Champion Species. This was a rewarding weekend for Roger. Apart from gaining this Championship and other Class placings he also won a Champion award at another show at Mt Coot-tha.

Den. Sarah Jane 'Purvis' – 2007 Champion Hybrid won by Brendan Killen

Again this year the show was fully sponsored prior to commencement. I sincerely thank all the sponsors. Our Bulletin Editor, Graham Corbin produced a CD of over 500 native orchids. Interspersed amongst these slides was an individual acknowledgement of sponsors. This slide show ran continuously all day and received very favourable comments. He also produced a number of CD's, minus the sponsors names, for sale to the public and these were quickly snapped up.

The success of the show must be attributed to the fantastic support of our members. I don't know of any orchid society that is not able to gain access to the venue until after 10.00pm on the night before the show. Despite this our members turn up to prepare the hall for benching on Saturday morning. I also congratulate our Judging Panel for their support. No show can succeed without a capable and dedicated Show Organiser. We are very fortunate that Rhonda Harvey possesses both these qualities.

As has been the practice in previous years the Group dined together on Saturday night at the local tavern with 29 members in attendance. ■

Eddie Boudette
President
ANOS (Qld) Kabi Group Inc.

Orchids Out West (NSW)

It is not every day that we have the opportunity to announce the birth of a new orchid show, so from 2-4 May 2008 at Hawkesbury Race Club course at Clarendon the flash of jockey's silk will change to the massed colour of orchid displays and all are invited.

So where is Clarendon? Well it is the suburb on the main road (Windsor Road) between Windsor and Richmond. It has its own railway station, only one minute from the track and is adjacent to the airport and Richmond Airforce Base. In the balmy days of autumn should make a pleasant drive or train ride. Parking availability is massive so it also could be an opportunity for those societies who are wondering where to go on their next bus trip.

Hawkesbury, Blue Mountains and Blacktown Orchid Societies have joined together with OSNSW to sponsor this show in a similar manner of that held at the St. Ives Orchid Fair. It will feature, under one roof in the Corporate Centre Building, up to 15 vendors as well as displays from as many Societies who wish to take this opportunity to increase their finances and top up their memberships. Schedules setting out classes, prize money and conditions will be available early in the New Year so this is an alert to secretaries – put this one on your calendar. ■

Graeme Scott-Harden
Email: graemesh@people.net.au

S.P.E.C.I.E.S. Show

To be held on Saturday 20 October 2007 at the Community of Christ Neighbourhood Centre, 10-14 Taylor Street, West Pennant Hills.

The Show is open to the public from 10.00am. Auction plants can be viewed from 9:30am. ■

Western Australian Orchid Spectacular 2008

This Conference and Show will feature all Western Australian Orchid Societies. It will be held at the Belmont Oasis Leisure Centre on the corner of Abernathy and Alexander Roads, Belmont, WA, from 25th to 29th September 2008. (Setup on the 25th, open to the public from 26th to 29th.)

Early Bird Registration Expires in January 2008. $70 gets you into all the lectures. We are privileged to have 20 world class Orchid Authorities as our guest speakers, covering a huge range of orchid subjects. Something for everyone.

The Full Details of WAOS 2008 Registrations are now available as a printable form through the WAOS Web Site at: http://members.iinet.net.au/%7Eemntee/WAOS.html

Orchid Tours

Places for the Four Day Tour are being gobbled up fast. 38 places on the bus are already accounted for. Don't miss out on this once in a lifetime opportunity to get a guided tour of the Orchids of the Southwest led by Andrew Brown. Andrew is the Guru who knows where the orchids are all hidden. Many overseas orchid personalities have already booked for the Four Day Tour. Cost includes all accommodation, lunch and dinner on day 1, breakfast, a packed lunch and dinner on days 2 and 3, breakfast and lunch on the 4th day. A seat on the bus, (naturally) and our resident expert Andrew Brown, will provide his usual scintillating commentary, guidance and information throughout the tour. Seats will be reserved on a 'first come, first served' basis, so please act now. Are you willing to share a room? Hotel space will be at a premium during this time and sharing with a friend will mean that there will be more rooms available to all. And all this for $550 Twin Share and Single supplement +$165.

And don't forget the One Day Orchid Tour, which will be run on either Saturday 27th or Sunday 28th September, to see native orchids growing *in situ* at various locations around the Perth metropolitan area. A packed lunch is included.

The day is designed to be an informal affair, so please feel free to ask Andrew questions at any time.

Please note: the itinerary has been developed so that we can view a range of habitats and orchid species. It is likely that we will visit most locations, depending on climatic and other factors, orchids do not flower as well in the same locations every year and, if this is the case this year, alternative locations will be selected prior to the day. Tour cost per person is only $50.00. For any queries or questions (or to be included on our emailing list for further Bulletins), please write to: the Secretary, PO Box 4076, Alexander Heights, WA 6064, or email Tony at waos@iinet.net.au ■

Tony Watkinson
Publicity Officer, WAOS 2008
Email: waos@iinet.net.au

Phil Spence to visit Dandenong Orchid Club

Dandenong Orchid Club invites you to attend an evening with Phil Spence on Friday 9th November 2007, starting at 7.30pm. To be held at the Balla Balla Community Centre (adjacent to Cranbourne Library) Berwick-Cranbourne Rd, Cranbourne.

Since 1982 Phil Spence has been a prolific breeder of Australian native orchids and has produced hybrids which are part of every significant collection of these plants. His time in New Guinea and subsequent experience with the New Guinea native orchids has established him as one of the genuine experts in this field as well. His travels in search of orchids have received much publicity and this is an opportunity to hear of them first hand. The whole evening will be presented by Phil. During the evening limited numbers of plants will be available for sale from both Phil Spence and Geoff Stocker.

Cost is only $10.00 per head including a magnificent supper provided by the Country Women's Association. Bookings are essential; for more information contact Greg Taranto 0418 347 595 or email: tractors@gttractors.com ■

Vale: Lister Arrowsmith

Senior orchid growers will be saddened to hear of the passing of Lister Arrowsmith who passed away suddenly at his private residence in Townsville on June 10, 2007.

He was a tireless worker for the Townsville Orchid Society and was Deputy Chairman of 8th Australian Orchid Conference Committee and was awarded Life Membership of this society.

Lister and his late wife Hilda attended many national, international and world orchid conferences and were well known in international orchid circles. ■

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AOR 039

Scientist jailed for smuggling orchids

A top scientist jailed for smuggling more than 100 "priceless" orchids into Britain has been ordered to pay up more than £100,000. Pharmaceutical researcher Dr Sian Lim, 33, was caught smuggling some of the rarest species of the beautiful, fragrant and delicate plant into Britain from his native Malaysia.

The illegal trade – dubbed 'orchidelirium' – threatens to destroy some species entirely. Thousands of pounds can be exchanged for each of the flowers admired for their sensuous shape and heady scent.

Amongst the flowers recovered was one species that only grows in small numbers in a remote area of a national park in Sarawak in Malaysia. Six of the flowers – the most spectacular of the group – are so rare they are on the brink of extinction and can only be found on the slopes of Mount Kinabalu on the island of Borneo.

Two of the flowers were only discovered in 1997 in the remote Indonesian island of Sulawesi and are believed to be extinct because of illegal collection. They are so rare that the orchid expert at Kew admitted he had never even seen one. In all 126 specimens seized from Dr Lim fall into the CITES "Category A" which means they are banned from all trade.

A renowned collector, Dr Lim grows rare orchids in two greenhouses in the garden of his home in Putney, south west London, and exhibits at international shows. He admitted 13 charges of smuggling rare orchids into Heathrow Airport although he claimed it was not for commercial gain.

The orchids found by customs officers in Lim's luggage at Heathrow when he flew in from Malaysia on June 2nd, 2004, included "some of the most sought-after orchids in the history of orchid collection – some of the most rare in the world."

Dr Lim was jailed for four months in January last year at Isleworth Crown Court. He was ordered to pay £110,331 – the proceeds of his trade – when he returned to court. He was also ordered to pay £15,000 in costs, including towards research by experts at Kew Gardens. If the money is not paid he will have to serve a further three year prison sentence. ■

Life Style Extra (UK), 27 July 2007
www.lse.co.uk

Vale: Brian Blackley (1929 – 2007)

It is with much sadness that we report the passing of Brian Blackley on 16 April 2007. My first introduction to the Sapphire Coast Orchid Club was also my introduction to Brian Blackley, on a club social day at his place. I did not know anyone but somehow was introduced to him and others and immediately felt at home. Brian immediately took me under his wing, which I later realized was his practice with new members and was incredibly generous in sharing his time and knowledge. This was one of two ways of showing his love of orchids; the other was growing them superbly.

He loved to travel, usually to do with family or orchids and had a wide range of orchid growing friends from South Australia to Queensland. He grew a diverse range of orchids but was particularly interested in growing and breeding cymbidiums and oncidiums and was most successful in these pursuits. He seemed to have a natural understanding of genetics and also chemistry as it applied to fertilizers. Not easy subjects to get on top of without formal training. Brian was Secretary of the Sapphire Coast Orchid Club (NSW) for many years and a committee member for most of the rest. He liked to see things done properly which explains in part his successes as a grower.

In our Club he will be remembered for his skills in breeding and growing superb orchids, his strong convictions but more importantly we will remember his friendship and willingness to share his knowledge and to help anyone who wanted assistance in growing their plants. ■

John Tanner
Sapphire Coast Orchid Club (NSW)
Email: johnftanner@hotmail.com

Vale: Tony (Anatoly) Kapcelovich

With regret we announce the death of Tony Kapcelovich, a long time member of the Townsville Orchid Society, who passed away on 22 May 2007.

Tony was well known in our orchid fraternity because of the numerous awards he achieved. He was very discerning with the selection of his orchids and thus his collection was kept under control and received meticulous care.

In 1948 Tony left Ukrain and, on arriving in Australia, he worked in the Innisfail hinterland as a cane cutter. There he met Tess and they married in 1950. He later worked for Queensland Railways until his retirement.

Until he became ill Tony could be relied upon by our Society to demonstrate and talk about how he cared for his plants. He gave great encouragement and advice to new members. Tony and his wife Tess were also very generous with donations of orchid plants and other items for the Club's fund raising ventures.

He is survived by his widow Tess, three sons, two grandchildren and one great grandchild. Tony will be sadly missed. ■

Wal Nicholson, President T.O.S. Inc.

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DATE	TIME	SEASON	ORCHID SOCIETY	SHOW ADDRESS
New South Wales				
6 October	9.00am-2.00pm	Spring	Southern Riverina OS Spring Show	Anglican Church Hall Princes Highway, Milton
6 October 7 October	9.00am-4.00pm 9.00am-3.00pm	Spring	Port Macquarie Orc/Brom Soc. 'Orchids by the Sea'	Port Macquarie High School Owen Street, Port Macquarie
6 October 7 October	9.00am-5.00pm 9.00am-4.00pm	Spring	Albury-Wodonga & District OC Inland Championship Orc Show	Mirambeena Centre 19 Martha Mews, Lavington
10-13 October	Shopping Centre Hours	Spring	Newcastle OS Late Spring Show	Stockland Glendale Shopping Centre Lake Road, Glendale
11-14 October	Club Hours	Spring	Macleay Valley OS Late Spring Show	Kempsey Macleay RSL Club York Lane, Macleay
12-13 October 14 October	9.00am-4.00pm 9.00am-3.00pm	Spring	Orchid Society of NSW Southern Orchid Spectacular	Sharkies Leagues Club Captain Cook Drive, Cronulla
18-20 October	Shopping Centre Hours	Spring	Central Coast & Lakes OS	Lakeside Plaza Shopping Centre Lakeside Plaza, The Entrance
18-21 October	Shopping Centre Hours	Spring	Western Suburbs OS Spring Show	Rockdale Plaza Rockdale
20 October	Open 10.00am	Spring	SPECIES (NSW) Inc Orchid S.P.E.C.I.E.S. Show	Community of Christ Neighbourhood Centre 10-14 Taylor Street, West Pennant Hills
25-27 October	Shopping Centre Hours	Spring	Northern Rivers OSpecSoc Spring Show	Lismore Shopping Square Cnr Brewster & Uralba Streets, Lismore
2 November 3 November	9.00am-5.00pm 9.00am-3.00pm	Spring	Sapphire Coast Orchid Club Australian Native Orchid Show	Twyford Hall Market Street, Merimbula
3-4 November	10.00am-5.00pm	Spring	Tweed District OS Gold Coast-Tweed Orchid Fair	Tweed Heads Civic Centre Tweed Heads
5 January 2008 6 January 2008	10.00am-4.00pm 10.00am-3.00pm	Spring	Camden Haven OS Annual Summer Show	Laurieton United Servicemen's Club Seymour Street, Laurieton
Queensland				
4-6 October	9.30am-4.00pm	Spring	Atherton Tablelands OS Spring Show	Atherton Agricultural Show Showgrounds
4-6 October	8.00am-9.00pm	Spring	Gold Coast OS Spring Display	Pines Shopping Centre Elanora, Gold Coast, Queensland
11-13 October	Shopping Centre Hours	Spring	Mackay & District OS Autumn Show	Mt Pleasant/Greenfields Shopping Centre Mackay
11-13 October	Shopping Centre Hours	Spring	Pine Rivers OS PROS Spring Show	Aspley Pick-N-Pay Hypermarket Gympie Road, Aspley
12-13 October 14 October	9.00am-5.00pm 9.00am-4.00pm	Spring	Townsville OS Spring Show	Townsville Orchid Society Inc Hall Joe Kirwan Park, Charles Street, Kirwan
13 October 14 October	8.30am-5.00pm 8.30am-2.30pm	Spring	Bribie Island OS 20th Anniversary Spring Show	Indoor Bowls Club Hall First Avenue, Bribie Island
13-14 October	9.00am-4.00pm	Spring	North Moreton OS	Auditorium, Botanic Gardens, Mount Coot-tha
16-20 October	Shopping Centre Hours	Spring	Redcliffe & District OS Spring Show	Redcliffe City Library Oxley Avenue, Redcliffe
20-21 October	9.00am-5.00pm	Spring	NOSTI Orchid Show featuring Sarcochilus Orchids	Walshs Seeds & Garden Centre 881 Ruthven Street, Toowoomba
10-11 November	9.00am-4.00pm	Spring	Pumicestone District Orchid & Foliage Society	Ningi Community Hall Bribie Island Road, Ningi
28 November- 1 December	Shopping Centre Hours	Spring	Redcliffe & District OS Spring Show	Peninsular Fair Kippa-Ring
Victoria				
4-7 October	Shopping Centre Hours	Spring	Gippsland Orchid Club Spring Show	Mid Valley Shopping Centre Princes Highway, Morwell
5 October 6 October 7 October	1.00pm-5.00pm 10.00am-5.00pm 10.00am-4.00pm	Spring	Bendigo Ochid Club Annual Spring Show	YMCA Leisure Centre Browning Street, Kangaroo Flat
6 October 7 October	9.30am-5.00pm 12.30am-4.30pm	Spring	Melbourne Eastern OS 'World of Orchids' Show	Uniting Church Community Hall, Burwood Heights Cnr Blackburn Road & Burwood Highway, Burwood East
6 October 7 October	9.00am-5.00pm 9.00am-4.00pm	Spring	Horsham & District OS Spring Orchid Show	Town Hall Wilson Street, Horsham
6 October 7 October	9.00am-4.30pm 9.30am-4.30pm	Spring	Warringal OS Spring Show	St Sava Community Centre - (Melway Map 11, C-8) 212 Diamond Creek Road, Greensborough
6-7 October	10.00am-4.30pm	Spring	Geelong Orchid & Indoor Plant Spring Show	Christchurch Hall Cnr Moorabool & McKillop Streets, Geelong
6-7 October	9.00am-4.00pm	Spring	Ringwood OS Spring Show	Maroondah Secondary College Brentnall Road, Croydon (Melways Map 50 E3)
6 October 7 October	10.00am-4.00pm 10.00am-3.00pm	Spring	Warrnambool Dist. OS	Warrnambool College Hall Grafton Road, Warrnambool
6 October 7 October	9.00am-5.00pm 10.00am-4.00pm	Spring	Ringwood OS	Maroondah College Hall Brentnall Road, Croydon
13 October 14 October	1.00am1-4.00pm 10.30am-4.00pm	Spring	Colac OC	Colac High School Assembly Hall, Princes Highway, Colac West

SHOWDATES

DATE	TIME	SEASON	ORCHID SOCIETY	SHOW ADDRESS
18-20 October	Show Hours Close 8.30 evenings	Spring	Sunraysia Orchid Club Mildura Horticultural Show	Mildura Horticultural Show Showgrounds, Mildura
19 October 20 October 21 October	2.00am-5.00pm 10.00am-5.00pm 10.00am-4.00pm	Spring	Ballarat OS	SMB Horticultural Centre cnr. Gillies and Gregory Streets, Ballarat
20 October 21 October	9.00am-5.00pm 10.00am-4.00pm	Spring	Yarra Valley OS 23rd Annual Orchid Festival	Seville Hall Warburton Highway, Seville
20 October 21 October	9.30am-4.30pm 9.30am-4.00pm	Spring	Cobden & District Orchid Club	Civic Hall Victoria Street, Cobden
27 October 28 October	10.00am-5.00pm 10.00am-4.00pm	Spring	Ararat OC	Town Hall cnr. Vincent and Barkly Sreets, Ararat
3-6 November	9.30am-5.00pm	Summer	Stawell OS Summer Show	Halls Gap Hall Main Street, Halls Gap
3-4 November	Shopping Centre Hours	Summer	Mornington Peninsular OS Frankston Orc. & Flower Show	Community Hall of Brotherhood of St Lawrence 26 High Street, Frankston
3-4 November	Sat-Sun.		Mornington Peninsular OS	Brotherhood of St. Lawrence, High Street, Frankston
10 November 11 November	9.00am-5.00pm 10.00am-4.00pm	Spring	Yarra Valley OS	B. & T. Ferns 30 Wiseman Road, Silvan, Sylvan South
10-11 November	9.00am-5.00pm	Spring	Maribyrnong OS Sarcochilus Festival of Vic '07	Maribyrnong Community Centre Randall Street, Maribyrnong
Tasmania				
5 October 6 October 7 October	2.00pm-5.30pm 9.00am-5.30pm 9.00am-4.00pm	Spring	Devonport OS Spring Show	Maidstone Park Memorial Hall Spreyton
12 October 13 October 14 October	2.00pm-5.00pm 9.00am-5.00pm 9.00am-4.00pm	Spring	Burnie OS Spring Show	Bradden Hall Burnie Civic Centre Burnie
10 November	9.00am-4.00pm	Spring	Devonport OS Sarcochilus Show	Maidstone Park Memorial Hall Spreyton
New Zealand				
6 October 7 October	10.00am-4.30pm 9.00am-4.00pm	Spring	Canterbury OS Canterbury OS Show	Canterbury Horticultural Centre Riccarton Avenue, Christchurch

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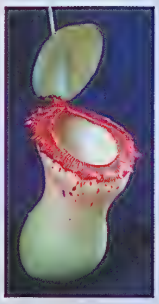

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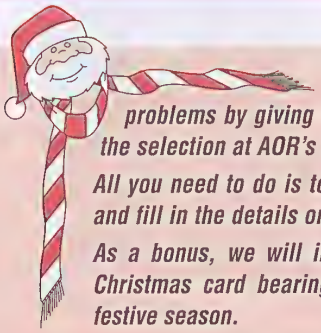

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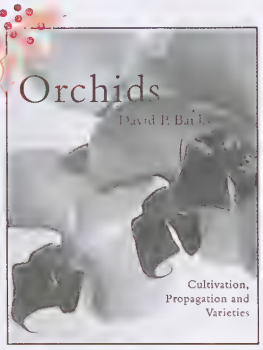

"Orchids" is an irresistible volume for all orchid lovers that offers practical advise to ensure no more flowerless stalks, no more browned and brittle leaves and no more dead and dying plants. Indeed, "Orchids" offers rare insights and comprehensive advice on how to keep your orchids vibrantly and beautifully healthy.

As detailed as it is diverse, "Orchids" explains precisely what your chosen species, hybrids or variant needs in order to flourish at your fingertips. With techniques and tips from professional orchid growers and experts, each natural habitat can be reproduced in your home to accommodate your favourite bloom. Fascinating and richly descriptive chapters take you through the history of orchid discovery, their geographical distribution and natural habitat, the awesome diversity of colour, shape and size, and all aspects of cultivation. A gloriously illustrated directory of species outlines the main characteristics of some 400 orchids. Illustrated with breathtaking images, "Orchids" is an excellent guide to growing orchids successfully.

224pp. Colour throughout.
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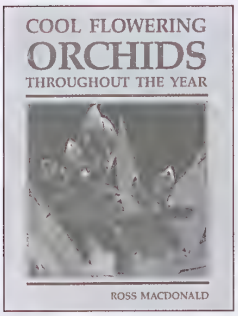

COOL FLOWERING ORCHIDS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR
by Ross Macdonald

Ross Macdonald is a highly respected orchid grower and photographer from the North Island of New Zealand. This volume is devoted to cool growing orchid genera, which are easy to cultivate in New Zealand and southern Australia. Growers in tropical areas should not be discouraged, as many of these orchids are indeed adaptable and will grow in a range of climates. Andy Easton has written the foreword. Ross has devoted the first few pages of the book to cultural hints, which are down to earth and give practical information on the basics of orchid cultivation. Basically this is a pictorial book with over 300 full colour photographs, covering a similar number of orchid species and hybrids. The quality of both the photographs and the colour reproduction is impressive. All of the orchids have been captured using available sunlight and there is no flash photography. There is a wide range of orchid genera covered with particular emphasis placed on cymbidiums, dendrobiums, laelias, masdevallias, the Odontoglossum alliance and Paphiopedilum.

The photographs are arranged in four chapters, referring on their main blooming season. The use of seasons ensures the text is also applicable to growers in the northern hemisphere. This inexpensive book is exceptional value and importantly is written by someone who knows and grows these orchids. I thoroughly recommend this book to orchid growers, as it will be of great value to both novice and experienced enthusiasts.

144 pp. 242mm x 168mm Softcover.

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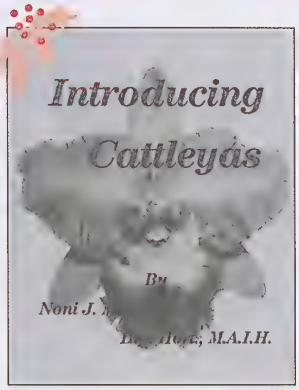

INTRODUCING CATTLEYAS
Noni J. Mammatt

Noni Mammatt's fascination with the Cattleya Alliance, their most beautiful blooms and extensive range of colour combinations, has prompted Noni to share the results of her own trials in successfully growing and flowering all types of this most beautiful genus under shadehouse conditions in the city of Perth in Western Australia. She hopes that as a result of her writing some new growers, as well as the experienced growers of other orchid genera, may be encouraged to introduce the Cattleya Alliance into their collections.

24 pages, B&W.

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MORE FLOWERING ORCHIDS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR
by Ross Macdonald

This is the sister volume to Cool Flowering Orchids throughout the Year. It is in the same format and style as the previous book, but also includes some genera that would require artificial heating in cooler climates. This volume covers a further 314 orchid species and hybrids with 344 colour plates. Both texts are highly recommend to all orchid fanciers; particularly newcomers who wish to see an array of delightful flowers that they could grow.

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Softcover.

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THE WORLD OF ORCHIDS – 2

The World of Orchids – 2 has been written by members and friends of the North Shore Orchid Society about orchids grown in Sydney and its environs, and we are indebted to those people for their time and effort.

It has been produced to cover a large range of genera to help not only the novice, but also the experienced grower in their present fields of interest, and to tempt and encourage them to try other genera.

It should be pointed out that the methods of culture used by the authors are those which they themselves have found successful. Growers should try any changes to their own culture gradually and on a few plants first, as orchids respond differently under different conditions.

80 pages, colour and B&W.

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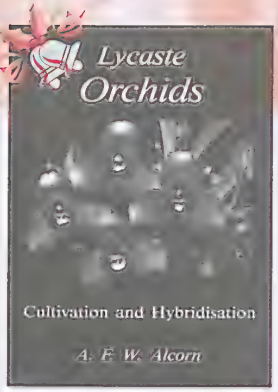

LYCASTE ORCHIDS - Cultivation and Hybridisation

A.F.W. Alcorn

Lycaste orchids are easy to grow, and they produce flowers that range from the beautiful to the bizarre. No book previously has provided detailed cultural requirements of the Lycaste, and this book should fill that gap, and encourage new growers to take up the cultivation of this beautiful genus. A section on hybridising contains valuable information on inheritance and genetics that will benefit any hybridiser, not just the grower of Lycastes, as well as helpful hints on how to avoid pitfalls in your hybridising program. Michael Hallett, a friend of Fred Alcorn for a number of years, co-wrote this book with Fred and has completed it posthumously. He has a background in genetics, research and botany, and a passion for plants, especially orchids.

237 pages, colour and B&W.

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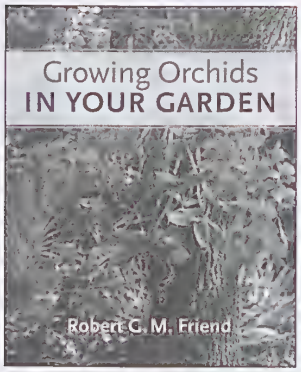

GROWING ORCHIDS IN YOUR GARDEN

by Robert Friend

Just about wherever you live in the world, you can grow orchids in your garden. In this exciting book, Robert Friend shows gardeners how to introduce orchids into the garden by attaching them to trees, fixing them to rocks and walls, or planting them directly into garden beds.

He has traveled the world from Florida to the cool forests of North America, to the tropics of the Pacific Rim and to his origins in Australasia, searching for new ideas and new ways to cultivate these striking plants.

The author details more than 500 orchid choices for every garden situation and supplies practical cultivation information in thorough charts and tables.

Growing Orchids in Your Garden offers an array of dramatic ideas for every reader.

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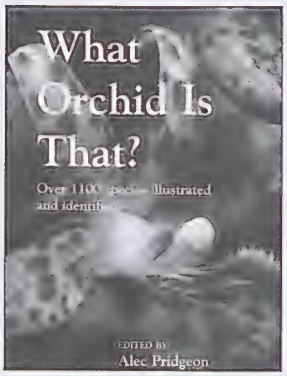

WHAT ORCHID IS THAT?

Edited by Alec Pridgeon

The orchid is one of the most passionately cultivated flowers world-wide, and for centuries it has been a symbol for the exotic and mysterious in the human imagination. As the brilliant photographs in this book show, the shapes, hues and textures of many of these extraordinary flowers continue to produce a shock of wonder in the viewer.

This book will delight everyone, from the gardener with a casual interest in orchids, to the confirmed enthusiast. It takes in a wide spectrum of orchid genera and more than 1100 species common in cultivation, presented by an international team of experts.

The first section, by the General Editor, Alec Pridgeon, introduces orchid habitat, distribution, names and classification, hybrids, pollination, how to grow orchids and control pests and diseases, and orchid conservation.

The alphabetical section, "Orchids A-Z", includes descriptions, names and synonyms, geographic distribution, notes on culture, and photographs drawn from collections around the world, showing the best-known species in cultivation.

Whether you are buying, growing or just looking, this is the ultimate guide to orchids.

304 pages, colour.

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GROWING PHALAENOPSIS AT HOME

James Neal

This book is essential reading and reference for any person who grows, or is intending to grow, Phalaenopsis.

Jim, in a simple and easily understood style, explains and elaborates on light conditions, watering, temperatures, fertilisers, pests and diseases.

Explanations of the way Phalaenopsis are named and the implications of growing seedlings, illustrate some of the more difficult ideas for the layman to understand.

The colour photography illustrates beautifully the topics under discussion and the orchid names are supplied, where necessary, as a caption.

The illustrations drawn by Jim's son Jamie are pertinent and succinct and make the subject more easily understood.

56 pages, colour and B&W.

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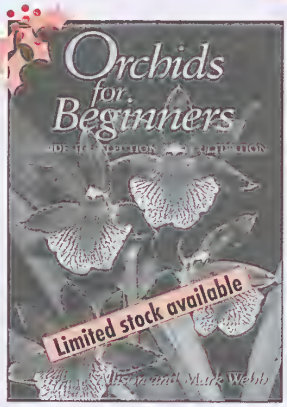

ORCHIDS FOR BEGINNERS

A Guide to Selection and Cultivation

Allison and Mark Webb

"Orchids for Beginners" is for those just starting out in orchids. It provides information about choosing orchids best suited to your conditions and how to grow them. There is advice on what to look for when choosing plants to avoid some common traps and the expense of losing plants unsuited to your conditions. The essential basics of cultivation for beginners are covered – potting media, mounting plants, repotting and deflasking as well as choosing locations and building bushhouses. There are suggestions for growing in country areas as well as indoors. The plant descriptions offer suggestions of plants to choose from as well as introducing some of the very varied forms of orchids.

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Walter T. Upton

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The book gives each individual species a separate entry, with information on its history, synonyms, distribution, habitat, cultivation and hybrids, along with a drawing showing the main parts of the plant and flower, plus a colour plate providing an easy means of identification.

Hybridising, including intergenerics, is dealt with in detail - most registered hybrids being accompanied by a colour plate. Other chapters include pollination, seed raising and cultural information for the home grower.

This is Walter T. Upton's third book and is a companion to his very popular and informative Dendrobium Orchids of Australia.

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Australian Natives

The native orchid flowering season continues but there is a change from mainly Dendrocoryne to Sarcanthinae. We now see crystalline white blooms of *Sarcochilus hartmannii,* red-splattered *S. fitzgeraldii* with the vanilla scent of *S. falcatus* filling the air. A number of other species also bloom at this time continuing to show the huge diversity of Australian natives.

Breeders gave achieved some really breath-taking colour combinations with Sarcanthinae – deep blood red, mauve-blue, icy pastel green and gold among other hues. The colours have really been intensified in many crosses. Some of the markings and flower shapes are intriguing. The hybrids have proven the way to get the colours of the hard or impossible to maintain species into plants which are easier to grow. The influence of *S. hartmannii* means there are long racemes with plenty of lowers which are well displayed.

If hybrids aren't your thing, who can look at the crystalline-white blooms of a well grown *Sarcochilus hartmannii* and not want to grow one of their own? Well, many of these are easy orchids to grow if you understand their few basic needs. Understanding the natural habitat of the species is important because the come from a wide range of areas and some are very sensitive to growing conditions. *Sarcanthinae* are in active growth most of the year. This can be seen as green roots tips. Light applications of fertiliser can be continued all year. These orchids need to be protected from the cold as well as low humidity and over bright sunlight. Just as important as good humidity is air movement. Still conditions allow fungal spores to settle and the thick leaves are very susceptible to damage. However, air movement lowers humidity so it is a balancing act to get things right. This is particularly important as we are threatened with yet another long, hot and dry summer this year with continuing water restrictions in many areas. Ponds and tubs of water in the bushhouse help as do foliage plants.

Watering plants to often leaches out nutrients and waterlogs pots. Misting the floor of the growing area during the day is a good way to keep humidity up, but not many growers will have the water to spare, or, if they do, their conscience about the wastage should deter them. Try thick mulch that will stay damp during the day. Gravel is good if you are worried about bark mulch harbouring pests and breaking down to sludge. Creating a shadier, protected area for your more sensitive plants is another option.

These plants are quite sensitive to frost and temperatures below freezing despite some species being subjected to extreme conditions in their natural habitat. They grow in protected niches and miss the extremes.

Some of the epiphytic *Sarcanthinae* grow better on a live host such as citrus trees. Be sure to check out the surrounds and don't kill the tree by tying the plant on with non-perishable material and ringbarking it! Water and fertiliser needs of these plants are the same as any others and may need special consideration to keep them moist. And don't use trees that shed their bark or leaves!

Sarcochilus fitzgeraldii is a plant that needs shaded, protected conditions. It occurs naturally beside watercourses, often on steep mountainsides, in northern New South Wales and southern Queensland. These areas are damp at all times and heavily shaded, but sunlight – typically morning – breaks trough the canopy to spotlight the plants for at least a short time each day. There is quite a temperature range, just above freezing in winter to over 40°C in summer but the streams and the moss that covers the rocks they grow on, provide microclimates.

Sarcochilus hartmannii is easily grown as it comes from harsher locations than many might think. The readily accessible plants in the wild were collected long ago but those that remain perch just back from the edge of cliff tops. This species is best known from the volcanic structures of the rim of the Mt. Warning volcano. The plants can be subjected to blasts of summer heat and chilling winter winds but they cling to crevices where there is protection and moisture. The roots may run for metres through the grass. These sites have perfect drainage and it is root rot that this species is most susceptible to.

Sarcochilus ceciliae has narrow leaves and its appearance suggests the harsher climate in which it is found. This is more an inland plant from open eucalypt forest where it grows on rocky outcrops. The temperature range is quite wide and severe at times. Again the root system needs good drainage.

Sarcochilus falcatus is an epiphyte of rainforest. Its roots run across the trunks and branches of moss covered trees from southern Queensland to Victoria. It comes from cool, damp and protected environments – very pleasant places to be in the heat of summer. It will not grow in pots. This makes it a more difficult subject to maintain with reduced water as mounted plants have higher water requirements. The challenge is for growers to find a structure

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that keep moist enough to grow the plant, but not so wet the roots are saturated and unable to get the air movement. Growing appropriate mosses with the plants should help. There are many other species of *Sarcanthinae* but many are sensitive epiphytes and fare more difficult to cultivate. The *Sarcanthinae* species are susceptible to root rots if conditions in cultivation are not ideal. A plant might be growing strongly then suddenly drop its leaves and die. These orchids need really good drainage so most growers use coarse gravel in the mix. Shallow plastic or terracotta pots are used. The roots of many of these plants are a much a feature as the leaves (some species don't even have leaves). The roots like to run across the top of the media and invade the next pot on the bench. Mounted plants can have quite extensive root systems so allow plenty of room for growth when mounting.

Along with the *Sarcanthinae* there will be a range of other native orchids in bloom now. Some of these are easy to grow and add variety to a collection as well as provide flowers at a quieter time.

Of the *Cymbidium* species, *C. madidum* is the easiest to grow. It will tolerate a well-drained cymbidium mix or a dendrobium mix with some fine material. A large shallow pot is ideal but it will need to be hung to leave room for the pendulous racemes. This species comes from moister areas than the others – typically rainforest on the eastern side of the ranges between north-eastern New South Wales and northern Queensland.

The *Phauis* species are swamp plants. They are quite tough and easy to grow needing moist media with plenty of humus.

In warm weather it is important to be sure your plants are getting water when they need it. Water first thing in the morning or in the cool of evening to give the plants time to absorb it before the heat of the day. Keeping the evaporation rate lower it is a more environmentally sensible thing to do, and many growers won't have a choice about the time or even day they water. Regularly check all misters are working if you are still using them and that plants haven't grown and stop water reaching ones underneath them. Fertiliser is needed now, as this is the major growth time.

Repotting is best done now. Don't overpot native orchids and take care not to snap off new growths that will be starting as they are very brittle. Disinfect any tools and your hands or gloves between plants to avoid spreading viruses and other diseases. (Gloves protect your hands from the bark in media that can give them the texture of super coarse sandpaper!)

Fertilise, tidy up and repot and enjoy any blooms you may have.

Cattleyas

With spring and warmer weather just around the corner there is much to do. Plants is a heated house can stay a little longer before changing their cultural routine. Keep just damp and a light fertilising until the end of September. The use of an organic fertiliser such as MAJOR CARP® or GROWTH BLOOD & BONE®. Water when needed, maybe every seven to ten days.

Watch shading. Plants that need repotting or dividing can be carried out once temperature starts to rise. Don't forget after repotting, the use of a growth hormone is beneficial.

Plants growing in a shade house must be inspected for cold damage. If present wait to see if there is any growth action before attempting any dividing or repotting. Watch your watering. If bulbs are going black, give plants a good soaking with AGRI-FOS 600. This will help control certain fungi diseases that may be attacking the sick plants.

Once you see growth and root action, then you may attend to their needs, i.e. divide or repot. Once plants are growing fertilise with an organic and maybe a plant hormone such as SUPERTHRIVE®.

Cymbidiums

Many growers have experienced a lot of flower and plant losses due to below average temperatures during July-August. Once leaves have dried out you may cut the dead section off with a sterilised cutting implement. If bulbs have gone slushy, cut out affected bulbs and soak plants in a FONGARID® solution at 100 grams in 100 litres of water for five minutes and then repot in your favourite mix. DO NOT OVER WATER.

Once repotted give plants a good irrigation with your favourite fertiliser such as MERRI-FERT at 0.5 grams per litre of water plus SUPERTHRIVE® at label rate. Repeat in fourteen days time. By then the plants should be able to receive normal treatment.

After flowering, repotting should be commenced. If using a palm base mix watch your watering and fertilising. If growth is not up to scratch a little gypsum sprinkled around the top of the pot could help. If in doubt ASK.

After repotting fertilise weekly with a high potassium fertiliser. This will help with next years crop of flowers. Look under leaves for signs of two-spotted mite. If present spray with ECO-OIL®. If weather is dull, wet, cool, spray with MANCOZEB to control black spot.

During spring watch watering. Fertilise regularly.

Phalaenopsis

This wonderful genera is now in full bloom. This year we have seen some beautiful coloured varieties.

Watch temperature in the hot house. Most people wait until October before turning off the heat. Watch humidity. If too low you will get bud drop and tissue paper thin blooms.

Fertilise weekly with PETERS Cal-Mag hi K or ALAN'S MERRI-FERT. Watch for mealy bug.

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AZAMAX® a new general purpose insecticide now registered for use on ornamentals has had good results in the control of mealy bug.

Once October arrives, you may think about repotting. Use DEBCO BARK COARSE GRADE with a little coarse or super coarse perlite for aeration. A little gypsum around the top of the pot is beneficial.

Paphiopedilum

A little care is necessary during spring as the weather can be quite variable. We generally have nice warm days and cool nights – ideal conditions for paphiopedilums to begin their main growth cycle.

Repotting was covered fairly comprehensively in the notes for July/August, however a few points are worthy of repetition:

Paphiopedilums thrive on repotting. it should be done every year for best results, no matter how happy the plant appears or how good the mixture looks. You can only see the top of it.

Don't overpot. Use a pot which will comfortably hold the roots. 'Squat' pots (height about equal to diameter) are best and drainage must be adequate. The base of the plant should be just below the surface of the mixture.

'Wobbly' plants should be staked.

Don't use Osmocote. It is just great for most orchids but paphiopedilums will not grow a good root system when it is used.

Repotting can be continued throughout this period – in fact, right up until about mid December, or later if you have effective cooling.

Watering should be done as required. If the weather is hot and dry you may need to water every couple of days; if cool and cloudy, once a week may suffice. It is particularly important to water in the morning if you possibly can. The object is to keep the soil temperature up; you can't achieve this if you water late in the day.

Fertiliser should be given regularly, particularly toward the end of this period. It is not too much to water with about half strength fertiliser every second or third watering. I find it very convenient to use a 'Hyponex siphon mixer', which plugs in at the tap end of the hose and sucks the concentrated fertiliser out of a 20 litre bucket. These are cheap and foolproof but they won't work against a lot of back pressure; I use a 'Gardenia' water breaker, screwed well out, on the end of a 20 metre hose and have no trouble.

I have always used Aquasol, supplemented with extra iron, a bit of magnesium now and then and Nitrosol which, apart from its value as a fertiliser, I believe acts as a wetting agent. Whilst I never really measure anything, the proportions are probably about: two teaspoons of Aquasol, one teaspoon of Nitrosol, a pinch of Iron Chelate and a few pinches of Epsom Salts all dissolved in about 20 litres of water. This is pretty weak, but I use it frequently.

About the only pests which trouble paphs. are scale and mealy bug. These become active around early November and it is not a bad idea to spray the collection during this month as a preventive measure. Malascale will clean these up fairly effectively. If you feel really heroic, Supracide is very effective. Whatever you use, take the appropriate precautions otherwise you may clean up the family dog, or even yourself.

Vandaceous

Watering:– Water daily. Keep the root system moist with additional misting if necessary.

Light:– Strap leaf vandas and ascocendas need 50 to 70% shade. Terete and semiterete about 30%.

Fertiliser:– Fertilise weekly alternating over a four weekly period.

Wk.1. – Inorganic high nitrogen (Campbells B, Aqua feed or Aquasol).

Wk.2. – Foliar/Trace element (Wuxall Foliar).

Wk.3. – As for Wk.1.

Wk.4. – Organic (Fish Emulsion or Nitrosol).

Pest Control:– Fungicide every six weeks with Ridomil MZ WP, Daconil, Mancozeb or Wettable Sulphur).

Use Diazanon, Malathion or Pyrethrum to control insect pests.

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Dendrobium Pink Doll 'Elegance'

More Notes On Softcane Dendrobiums

by Keith Ryan

In the August/September 2006 issue of the AOR, I wrote an article on the cultivation of softcane dendrobiums that I hope was of some help to those interested in growing these beautiful orchids that produce such an amazing and long-lasting display of blooms in the spring. Although the winter months are times of little activity with these plants, most growers sometimes think that withholding water and fertilizer is appropriate at this time of year.

In my growing conditions, in early July the nodes on the older canes are beginning to swell and to ensure that I get the best possible flowering in the spring, there are certain things that I must do now to allow this to happen. To start with, I look at the last year's canes and remove the leaves if any remain, in most cases most would have already fallen. The leaves on all softcane dendrobiums (breeding based on *Dendrobium nobile* and its relatives) are very short lived and rarely last for two years, most are replaced annually. Next I would stake all canes with swollen nodes and move them to the front of the pot and tie the current season's canes to the back of the pot. This would ensure good flower presentation in the spring.

Dendrobium (Larapinta Butterfly x Yellow Ribbon) 'Starburst'

In the month of August, the buds will be evident and the plant should be given as strong light as is available, i.e. full sun. The buds will start to fill out around the middle of this month and you will see that staking was essential to support the extra weight of the buds and future flowers as this adds greatly to the weight of the swollen cane and if not supported would bend over at the base and possibly break.

All through the winter months water should only be given to just moisten the growing media and some new growth will be evident at this early stage. After the buds have filled out and are about to open, water should be increased slightly but no fertiliser given at this time, as that could cause buds to become keikis (or aerial growths) instead of flowers. All fertiliser should have ceased in early April anyway. It is advisable to wait until the new growth is 50-60mm in height to resume fertilising, which could be anywhere from early to mid November.

The fertiliser that I use is a low nitrogen type which gives a more compact growth and better flowering. Nitrogen fertiliser causes long growths and not so good flowers, plus a higher percentage of keikis. Any grower of these magnificent orchids will at some stage get some keikis as this is their survival habit and another way of reproducing. Now what I do with these keikis is plant four or five that came from the same plant in the one pot and leave them until they have to be moved up into the next size. When I move them up, I leave the four or five plants together and this will eventually grow into a specimen plant so a large pot is recommended.

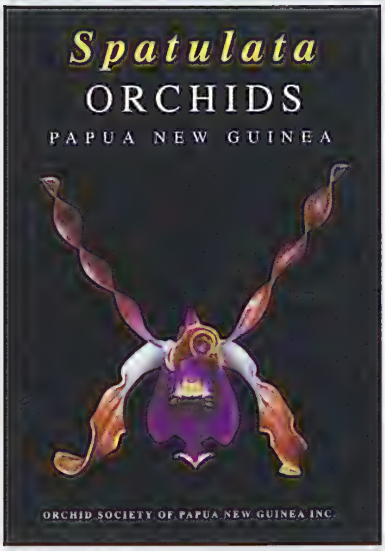
I hope these notes help any interested grower to produce their best spring flowers (and no keikis). These are very easy orchids to grow, and well cared for specimens provide an outstanding spectacle when in full bloom.

Keith Ryan,
Bossley Park, NSW

Spatulata Orchids – Papua New Guinea

by Justin Tkatchenko and Steven Kami

Softcover, 96 Pages (296mm x 210mm)
ISBN: 9980-86-070-7
Published by the Orchid Society of Papua New Guinea Inc. (2006)
RRP: AUD$70.00
Available from Orchidaceous Books (www.orchidaceousbooks.com.au)



The *Spatulata Orchids of Papua New Guinea* covers a diverse, colourful and robust group of horticulturally desirable members of the genus *Dendrobium* that are often known as "Antelope Orchids". About half of the described species occur in New Guinea, which appears to be the centre of their distribution. This book covers over 30 species of *Dendrobium* Section *Spatulata* from Papua New Guinea (that for many years were loosely classified as falling within Section *Ceratobium*). It also includes a number of newly discovered and currently undescribed species.

They are also important orchids for the cut flower trade in many tropical countries with many of these species forming the backbone of local hybridising programmes. Their durability also makes them ideal garden subjects in suitable lowland tropical climates, with their long-lasting blooms creating an impressive floral spectacle.

It is great to see a book devoted to these plants, with high quality photographs used to depict the various species. Justin Tkatchenko and Steven Kami are well placed to present this work. Justin has lived in Papua New Guinea for over 15 years and is a former Curator of the National Capital Botanical Gardens in Port Moresby and he also presided over three issues of the (much missed) ephemeral botanical publication *Lasianthera*. Steven Kami has a life long interest in his countrys' indigenous orchids and has made frequent studies of them in the wild. They are both senior office bearers of the Orchid Society of Papua New Guinea, which published this work. Australians Phil Spence and Wayne Harris respectively wrote the Foreword and Preface.

In this book all taxa are classified as *Dendrobium*, with no reference to the 2002 reclassification by Mark Clements and David Jones (published in *The Orchadian* 13:485-489) that segregates these "Antelope Orchids" three ways. Briefly their work recognises three genera: *Ceratobium* (with 12 species including *D. antennatum* and *D. stratiotes*), *Cepobaculum* (with 8 species including *D. canaliculatum* and *D. johannis*) and *Durabaculum* (with 50 species, 1 variety and a natural hybrid; most of the *Spatulata* orchids in this book fall into this category).

The image on the front cover depicting a single bloom (taken by Rocky Roe) of *Dendrobium lasianthera* is striking and it is little wonder why the Orchid Society of Papua New Guinea chose this taxon as its floral emblem. Overall, the photography presented within this book (over 100 colour photographs) is of a very high standard, including some stunning ones taken in situ. Most of these images have been taken by Rocky Roe, arguably New Guinea's finest orchid photographer.

I was surprised to see *Dendrobium williamsianum* included in this work. Whilst the growth habit is reminiscent of many of the dendrobiums in Section *Spatulata*, its blooms suggested that it was well placed within Section *Phalaenanthe* (now genus *Vappodes*). We are told that recent DNA studies in fact led to this change of classification.

This is not a scientific publication. With each species entry there is a brief description of the plant and flowers plus other identification features and historical information. A map is used to give a quick snapshot of the taxons distribution, which is also expanded upon in the text along with habitat notes. But again it is the large colour photos that make this book, and for many taxa numerous examples are shown to highlight the diversity that can be found within the same species.

All of the described species, which are treated alphabetically, provide enough visual and written information to assist in their confident identification. There is also a section on cultivation. The quality of the colour reproductions and paper quality is to be commended, as it was published and printed in Papua New Guinea.

At AUD$70.00 it is a little expensive for a softcover book, but such specialised works with their invariable short print runs are rarely cheap, are seldom reprinted and increase in value as they become out-of-print. This book will be welcomed by *Dendrobium* enthusiasts, growers of tropical orchids and those with a true interest in species orchids. ■

David Banks
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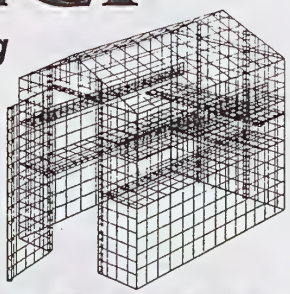
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Using Soluble Fertilisers –
Grams (gms), Milligrams (mgs), and Millilitres (mls)

Jim Brydie

The rate at which soluble fertiliser should be used is a question often asked at culture classes and for that matter by experienced growers as well. An equally important quest less often asked is how do we accurately measure the amount we should be using. The following is a slight update on an article I wrote in this bulletin in March last year. It might be useful to keep both this and the insecticide article in the greenhouse?

Weights and measures?

Most fertiliser packs advise use of their product at a certain number of grams of fertiliser per litre of water. For example, Aquasol recommends use at 4 grams per 5 litres of water. The problem is how do you weigh 4 grams? Unless the fertiliser manufacturer provides a special measurer (as Aquasol does), or you happen to own a laboratory scale, it is very difficult.

Liquid fertilisers like Garden Party don't present the same problem because they are liquid to start with and give recommended rates in volumetric terms. ie 'x' mls of fertiliser to 'y' litres of water. Volumetric measuring tools are readily available. You can buy a full set of kitchen measuring spoons at one of the "$2 Shops" for literally $2. There are separate spoons for as little as 0.6 mls, right up to 25 mls. Measuring cups are available for larger volumetric measures.

For the dry soluble fertilisers, what we need then is something that allows us to equate weight to volume, ie grams to millilitres, for each soluble fertiliser.

Some fertiliser brands do help us out by supplying a special measuring spoon in the pack. This spoon is designed to give a specific number of grams for a level spoonful. This is very convenient but it brings me to the very important point that these spoons are only to be used for the fertiliser with which they are supplied. As you can see from the table below, different fertilisers have very different dry weights per volume. An Aquasol spoon is only designed for Aquasol, a Thrive spoon is designed for Thrive etc. Apart from these brand specific spoons, the best way to go is to use the $2 shop spoons, the table below, and a calculator, to convert from grams to millilitres.

Table 1. *Fertiliser weights, and TDS Field Test Readings*

Fertiliser Brand/Product	one level 5ml spoon = 'x' gms	Manufacturers recommended rate of use	Total Dissolved Salts reading (ppm)
Peters Excel/Cal/Mag Hi K (No urea)	5.79 gms	1 gram per litre of water	760
Aquasol	3.25 gms	4 grams per 5 litres of water	490
Thrive General Purpose	3.33 gms	8 gms per 4.5 litres of water	630
Thrive Flower and Fruit	4.54 gms	8 gms per 4.5 litres of water	1740
Campbells Yellow	4.83 gms	3 grams per litre of water	1640
Garden Party	liquid	3 mls per litre of water	470
Phostrogen	liquid	5 mls per 10 litres of water	840
Fish Emulsion	liquid	5 mls per 1 litre of water	545
African Violet Delight	liquid	10 mls per litre of water	910

Don't use your kitchen teaspoons. Although a "teaspoonful" is commonly understood to be 5 millilitres, it is an unfortunate fact that kitchen teaspoons vary considerable in size.

What fertiliser concentration to use?

There is no clear answer to this Question. Some orchids do much better with higher fertiliser rates than others (eg *Cymbidium, Vanda, Phalaenopsis?*) but if you decide to standardise on stronger rates for all your orchids you are likely to find that some will react in reverse. For a general collection with a variety of orchids, the most simple recommendation is still "weakly weekly". That is, to use weak soluble fertiliser on a regular basis. The "regular" part is most important. Believe me when I tell you that most nurseries, and many top growers, fertilise every week.

As to the "weak" recommendation, we usually tell new growers that they should use fertiliser at half the rate recommended by its manufacturer. Half strength of one fertiliser can be significantly stronger than $1/2$ strength of another but "half rate" is still fairly safe and reliable. For those who would prefer a more specific measure however, one way to compare the "strength" of fertilisers is by comparing the Total Dissolved Salts (TDS) reading that they give when dissolved in water at the rates recommended by their manufacturer. Generally, TDS readings are expressed in terms of "Parts Per Million" (ppm) of the fertiliser in the solution in which it is dissolved.

When fertiliser salts are dissolved in water they form electrically conductive ions. The more concentrated the fertiliser solution the more readily it conducts electricity, and this is the principle applied by a TDS meter. It needs to be noted however that not all fertiliser chemicals conduct an electric current equally. Furthermore, a small number of fertiliser components do not ionise at all and their presence is therefore not measured by the meter. The most significant fertiliser component of these non-ionising types is urea, which is a common Nitrogen component in many fertilisers. The urea provides nitrogen only as it is broken down by bacteria in the potting medium or soil.

Despite these limitations however, TDS is still generally accepted as a valid comparative measure and as a basis for accurately communicating usage rates between growers. For example, I have found that most orchids grow very well with regular application of Peters Excel at the relatively low rate of about 250 to 300 parts per million versus the manufacturer's recommended rate of 760 ppm. As I mentioned earlier however, some such as Cymbidiums, would no doubt do even better with something more like 1000 ppm.

The TDS readings in the table below are actual readings taken by my friend Chris Wilson and myself in a controlled test, with the amounts of fertiliser very carefully measured on Chris's laboratory scale. When using the table, some allowance should be made for fertilisers that are high in urea. Read the fertiliser contents on the back of the pack for the urea content and if for example, a fertiliser is 20% urea, I would add a notional 20% to the TDS reading above.

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Display by Robyn & Brian Moore

Manning River Orchid Society – Golden Anniversary Show

Text & photos by Ray Clement

The Manning River Orchid Society recently celebrated '50 years and still going strong' with a large orchid show held in Taree in late August 2007. In the mid 1950's Mr. George Coleman, a local businessman, imported orchids from India. As a result of the interest generated, he decided to seek support to form an orchid society based in Taree, on the New South Wales mid-north coast. In August 1957 the meeting was called and the Manning River Orchid Society was formed. Inaugural President was Mr. Jack Folkard with George Coleman as Secretary. Also present at that meeting was Bruce Johnson, who went on to hold most positions within the club, including President a number of times. Bruce was made a life member many years ago, is still on the societys' committee, and is still an active AOC Judge.

Fifty years later and a lot has changed. The committee hired Taree's Basketball Stadium to accommodate displays from Dorrigo in the north to Sydney in the south. An additional attraction was several nurseries displaying and selling orchids and collectable plants. Saturday night's presentation dinner was a combination of good food and good fun.

Displays at the Hickman's sponsored Golden Anniversary Show were simply stunning, with the theme lending itself to some inspirational designs. These displays are always popular the visitors and competition for the best large display is often regarded as the Grand Prize of the show. Champion large display was won by Newcastle Orchid Society with an outstanding display of quality orchids meticulously put together by Fred Fear and his team. One of the eyecatchers was fresh cut flowers sprayed with gold florists paint and scattered throughout the second placed Camden Haven Orchid Society's display. Manning River Orchid Society's display was a close third. Table Top display was won by Bob Zeller of Taree with Norm Mitchell of Bellingen second and Mal and Marcia Myers of Taree third.

Major Prize-winners were:

Grand Champion of the Show (and Champion Exotic Species) was *Rhynchostylis gigantea* 'Woodburn' – Col Beetham of Old Bar.

Reserve Champion (and Champion *Phalaenopsis*) was *Phalaenopsis* White Horizon – Bob Zeller of Taree.

Champion *Paphiopedilum* was *Paphiopedilum* Black Velvet – Mal Myers of Taree.

Champion *Cymbidium* was *Cymbidium* Granny Smith 'Tee Pee' – Brian Moore of Dorrigo.

Champion *Laeliinae* was *Brassolaeliocattleya* Sylvia Fry 'Supreme' – Bob Zeller of Taree.

Champion Oncidiinae Alliance was

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Display by Bob Zeller

Wilsonara Hilda Plumtree – Brian Ling of Newcastle.

Champion Australian Native Hybrid was *Dendrobium* (Duno Burgundy Sheen x Rutherford Sunspot) – Robert Bassington of Newcastle.

Champion Australian Native Species was *Dockrillia teretifolia* – Mick Ling from Newcastle.

Champion Orchid (not elsewhere specified) was *Lycaste* Macama 'Atlantis' – Norm Mitchell of Bellingen.

Display by Norm & Kay Mitchell

Thanks to much hard work by President Rob Wells, Secretary Wal Horsburgh and a willing and dedicated Committee, our Golden Anniversary show was a huge success, not only as an impressive spectacle, but as a great social weekend.

Ray Clement
MROS Show Marshall.

Paphiopedilum **hybrid display by Graeme Banks OAM**

Cymbidiums Australia

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Editor's Report

As usual for this time of year, this issue features reports from major shows held across the country. Western Australia and Victoria have reports in this issue.

While you will have read repeated comments in these pages about the importance of new hybrids and new seedlings and there are certainly some outstanding new cymbidiums featured in this issue, there are also some impressive examples of well known clones, beautifully flowered to their maximum potential.

New cymbidiums are certainly the life blood of our hobby, but there is no point in having something new just for the sake of it. Not every new *Cymbidium* is automatically better than an older one in the same size, type or colour. For most *Cymbidium* growers flowering a quality new seedling is always exciting, but before we replace the old with the new we should perhaps weigh up if it is actually better than what we already have. Occasionally the comment is made that older cymbidiums shouldn't be winning at shows, as if we are failing in some way if a tried and true clone takes a prize. Of course many of our *Cymbidium* shows are won by new hybrids, or even seedlings, but if the best plant on the day happens to be an established clone, then it should most certainly win, both it and its grower deserve that. *Cymbidium* clubs provide ample opportunity to recognise and reward new hybrids, but also need to reward outstanding culture and presentation when faced with it in a show environment.

The Cymbidium Orchid Club of Western Australia's Carl Slusarczyk brings us a report on the clubs 2007 Winter Show, complete with pictures of some lovely cymbidiums. Anyone who might have thought that there isn't much going on *Cymbidium* wise over in the west, or that their cymbidiums might not match what's shown in the eastern states should revise their opinion after this report.

Carolin Allen brings us a report on the cymbidiums shown at the August Melbourne Orchid Spectacular staged by the Orchid Societies Committee of Victoria at Collectors Corner. Always a showcase for top class cymbidiums, 2007 did not disappoint.

David Allen brings us a report on the Victorian Western Districts Country Challenge, a unique event staged annually. It is not often we get the chance to report on shows staged outside of the capital cities, or the national show and David's report shows us that there are good cymbidiums grown and good growers growing them out in the country too.

Still on the show theme, Keith Harris has given us a report on the staging of the CCA's Orchid Extravaganza.

Noe Smith continues her series aimed primarily at newer *Cymbidium* growers, with *Cymbidium* culture as this issues topic. If you don't know where to start, or you are having problems with one particular aspect of your culture give this a read. The article may not cover every question relating to *Cymbidium* culture, but it does provide a sensible starting point and puts the various aspects of culture into perspective.

We hope this flowering season lived up to your expectations, as we write the season is still in full swing and it has been surprisingly good considering the problems with water restrictions which many growers faced. We wish you all the best with whatever challenges this coming season throws at you. If nothing else 2007 has shown just how inventive and adaptable *Cymbidium* growers can be and how rewarding *Cymbidium* orchids are. ■

Good health and good growing,
Your editors

Editors

Noe Smith **Rob Smith**

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Meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of each month (except January and February)
Benching of plants commences 7.15 p.m.
Popular Vote commences 7.50 p.m.
Main Meeting commences 8.00 p.m.
Venue: Belmont Sports & Recreation Club, Abernethy Road, Belmont, W.A.
For further details contact
Secretary, Alice Lang,
20 Urch Road, Kalamunda, WA 6076
Phone/Fax: (08) 9257 1056
President, Courtney Rogasch
Phone: 0407 049 717

THE CYMBIDIUM ORCHID SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.

Meetings are held on 2nd Tuesday of each month (except January)
Popular Vote commences 7.50 p.m. —
Main Meeting commences 8.00 p.m.
Venue: Mt. Waverley Youth Centre, Millers Crescent, Mt. Waverley, Victoria.
For further details contact
Secretary, Jenifer Robertson,
54 Worthing Road, Devon Meadows, Victoria 3977
Phone: (03) 5998 2226
President, Glenda Coutts,
Phone: (03) 9727 4849

Cymbidium Willunga Royal 'Orange Delight', Show Champion.

COCWA Winter Show

Text by Carl Slusarczyk, pictures by Carl Slusarczyk and Kevin Butler

The Cymbidium Orchid Club of Western Australia held its 2007 Winter Show from the 28th to the 30th of July. We have been vigorously advertising our club this year under the enthusiastic leadership of new President Courtney Rogasch with the aim of substantially boosting our membership. Several articles in the local papers and small displays around the suburbs have promoted the club as well as our offer of free plants to any new member from a stockpile generously donated by club members. However our best advertisement to date will have been this show as it was possibly our best ever. An unusually warm and dry start to winter had caused a lot of plants to bloom up to a month early so there was no shortage of good blooms.

The show theme was "Australiana" with inspiration provided by our unofficial artistic director Helen Stretch. A huge Australian flag formed a backdrop to the display which had as its focal point a fountain and windmill kindly provided by our hard working Vice President Peter Wise. The show was held in a big marquee in the grounds of Ezi-Gro Orchids' nursery. There was little need for the night-time security of Kevin Butler's two friendly Rottweilers as several snakes and lizards were incorporated in the display. One corner featured photographs and facts about Australia's three native cymbidiums and the smell of barbequed snaggers and onions added to the ambience as well as to the club's bank balance. Highlighting the multicultural nature of Australia were cymbidiums of all sizes and colours and derived from breeding programs from around the world. In respect of our own culture, there were plants in both bark and coconut fibre mixes.

Floral art demonstrations were given every day by WA's "orchid artist" Mary Cutler and were well attended, as were the cultural talks and potting demonstrations. Visitors sure got their money's worth especially as entry was free.

There were numerous fine plants but the following are the ones that stand out in my memory.

***Cym.* Willunga Royal 'Orange Delight'**

This Deane Mills bred plant owned by John and Deirdre Oliver was the Grand Champion of the show and was a real picture with its multiple long arching racemes. It obviously appeals to the judges as much as it does to the public as another plant won our Spring Show last year.

***Cym.* Gwen Thomas 'One and Only'**

This was the Reserve Champion grown by Stephen and Marilyn Thomas and named for Stephen's mother. They obtained five seedlings of *Cym.* (Catamarca x Roger Roger) from Graham and Sue Guest and a sister clone won last year's Sage Cymbidium of the Year for them. Visitors to the Port Adelaide National Show in 1999 will remember seeing the impressive parent plants and the crossing has clearly not disappointed.

***Cym.* Marilyn Thomas 'Just Divine'**

This Champion Seedling of the show was also from Stephen and Marilyn and presumably Stephen had the naming rights. I believe that the cultivar name applies equally to the plant. It was obtained from Bryant's Orchids and is from the crossing *Cym.* (Vibrant Bliss x Pharaoh's Star). At the Orchid Society of A Winter Show a week earlier it was awarded Grand Champion and an AM/OSWA. Could this be two years in a row for the Sage award? Some might say that the Thomas's have been lucky with their choice of seedlings but this immature plant was also beautifully grown. As in a lot of things, you can make your own luck and future flowerings are going to be even better.

***Cym.* Darch Freak 'Mars'**

The *Cym.* (Son of Freak x Christopher) crossing enjoyed great success at this show. The cultivars 'Mars' and 'Mud in the Eye' both received Certificates of Excellence for a distinctive feature and a Quality Award was given to the grex. Kevin Butler of Ezi-Gro Orchids owned and bred the plants. You could hardly believe that this clone was from the same seed-pod as the chocolate brown 'Mud in the Eye'. The other cultivars were in shades of pink. This variation results from the mixture of red, white and green in the grand-parents. Unfortunately I do not have a good photograph of 'Mud in the Eye' but it can be seen in the background of this one of 'Mars'.

***Cym.* Spring Beauty**

Ray Maisey exhibited this Andrew Easton bred *Cym.* (Sleeping Spring x Sleeping Beauty) plant. The colour was quite unusual being an orange-brown and stood out from everything else on show. Despite the "Sleeping" heritage neither parent was a pure colour.

***Cym.* Darch Dots 'Screws'**

I liked this unusual diploid owned and bred by Ezi-Gro Orchids which is *Cym.* (Hot 'n' Spicy x Pywacket). Conventional wisdom is that a greater variability can occur in diploid crossings in comparison to tetraploid ones due to the averaging effect of the double dose of genetic material found in tetraploids. As Kevin Butler actively seeks unusual results he has persisted with some diploid breeding lines. Unfortunately petal width and texture are reduced in the diploids but that need not worry growers who are not interested in cut flowers or Grand Champions. The cultivar name is explained by a sibling also shown called 'Nuts and Bolts' which in both cases alludes to the spots and stripes adorning the base colour.

***Cym.* (Mimi x madidum)**

This miniature was not a winner but I liked it. Owned by Tom and Ellen Dixon it had pendulous racemes and lots of yellow in the labellums which are characteristics inherited from the Australian species parent.

***Cym.* Darch Passion 'Different Genes'**

I liked this seedling for its mellow red colour and excellent labellum. 'Different Genes' refers to its parentage of *Cym.* (James Toya x Warren Michael) which is a sidestep away from the breeding of most Australian reds. Another plant owned and bred by Ezi-Gro Orchids.

Cym (Dag x Sleeping Nymph)

Ross and Alice Lang exhibited this very pretty pure-colour intermediate bred by Helen Palmer. It had superb Granny Smith green apple colour and good presentation on the raceme. Dag is a successful American breeding plant presumably named for its noteworthy character. The Langs however are retired Australian sheep farmers and in keeping with the show theme this combination of a pure colour and dag may remind them of one of their old flock.

***Cym.* Darch Vintage 'Red Glory'**

Why would I include this non prize winning *Cym.* (Clarisse Austin x Sensational Vintage) Ezi-Gro seedling in this article when there are a lot of good reds around now? Wine reds, plum reds, brown reds and a variety of other shadings are plentiful and are at or near to award quality. However a true vermillion red is still elusive. This clone comes close and with its bold labellum has something to offer a keen hybridiser who doesn't crave instant fame.

***Cym.* (Pink Snow x Cleo's Melody) 'Gorgeous'**

For most of the last century if you wanted to win Champion Cymbidium you would have been most likely to do so with a white standard. As fashions changed there was a lower demand for commercial whites and due to the enormous advances made in coloured breeding lines, especially the yellows and reds, many hybridists tended to concentrate on those. Hence we have seen a decline in the number of white cymbidiums at our shows. This Ezi-Gro Orchids small standard seedling will not win a show but demonstrates just how pretty a good white can be.

***Cym.* (Red Beauty x Lovely Angel)**

Ray Maisey showed this Bryant's Orchids bred standard which had a very attractive colour and good shape. Last century it was also common practice to cross the best tetraploid whites with diploid reds to obtain sterile triploid pinks as they were often the best pinks available. Examples are the famous Australian show winning Narela 'Jennifer Gail' and the American multi-award winning Lillian Stewart grex. With the later advent of many good tetraploid pinks they could be interbred and so red x white breeding tended to go out of favour. 'Rembrant' and 'Bubbles' have combined well and may be an encouragement to do more of this type of breeding especially given the much finer reds that we now have.

***Cym.* (Yowie Flame x Coraki Advent)**

Ray Maisey must have been expecting mostly vibrant polychrome shades from this Bryant's Orchids crossing of the dark red 'Krakatoa' and the golden yellow 'Bullion'. I doubt that he would have been disappointed as this flower was stunning. The big spikes of big flowers had an unusual pink shade completely devoid of yellow. The excellent labellums of both parents were in evidence however and were combined with wonderful effect.

Finally may I say that when it comes to the Cymbidium Orchid Club of WA; "Many hands make light work" Now we cannot wait for our Spring Show, which is why it starts on the first of September. As Australia's own "Big Kev" would have said, "I'm excited!"

Carl Slusarczyk
Regent St. West
Mount Lawley, WA

View of part of the 2007 COCWA Winter Show Display.

Some of the seedling plants of the pendulous miniature crossing, *Cym.* Mary Green shown by Paradisia Nurseries.

Cymbidiums at the OSCOV/Collectors Corner

Orchid Spectacular

Text by Carolin Allen, pictures by Rob Smith

As has happened every August for many years, a huge marquee complex was erected beside the Collectors Corner complex adjacent to the Orchid World section, in readiness for the Melbourne Orchid Spectacular 2007.

This event, staged by the Orchid Societies Committee of Victoria and sponsored by Yancy Kapitany, owner of Collectors Corner, has become a premier event during the Australian orchid season and draws many thousands of people over the three days it is open to the public. No doubt the combination of top quality orchids displayed by Victorian clubs and commercial growers, combined with orchid plants for sale from a number of Australia's top nurseries, alongside Collectors Corner's own orchids from their Paradisia Nurseries is the reason for this events amazing success over the years.

The marquees were set up on the Monday of what was to be a very busy week for all involved. By Tuesday afternoon Victorian orchid clubs were beginning to put together their displays, which were finished on Wednesday, ready for judging on Thursday morning. The show was opened to the public on Friday morning, running through until 5.00pm on Sunday.

While the quality of orchids on display was excellent and the total number of plants exhibited was nothing short of staggering, we will only concern ourselves with the cymbidiums entered in the show, which once again set a very high standard this year.

Cymbidiums ranged from the newest hybrids from a number of well known local breeders, to outstanding show plants grown to perfection and beautifully cultured specimen plants from some of the countries top growers.

The Cymbidium Orchid Club of Victoria's (COSV) display was once again among the largest in the show, in fact this year saw a number of new exhibitors participate for the first time, swelling the number of plants to the point where I had to ask if it was possible to increase the floor area allotted to the Cymbidium Club. While we were given the extra space, the number of plants meant abandoning the planned lay

out and re-designing the display on the fly. The club owes a big thank you to the exhibiting members who stayed around to help with the set up, both among the regulars and newer members, as the old saying goes, "Many hands make light work".

COSV members did exceptionally well this year, with many members' plants winning major categories and champion

Reserve Champion of Show, *Cym.* One Tree Hill 'Doris'. A beautifully grown specimen plant of an established clone.

Cym. (Kelly's Winter x Yowie Pepper). Champion Seedling and Champion Large Flower.

Cym. Joans Era 'Mikasa'

prizes. Their quality cymbidiums were spread throughout the show as many of them not only display on the COSV stand, but also in their local multi genera club stands as well.

This year COSV members were able to provide the winners in all major *Cymbidium* categories provided, with the show results being as follows:

Reserve Champion of Show, *Cym.* One Tree Hill 'Doris' – Andy Tran.

Champion Large Flowered *Cymbidium* and Champion Seedling Shown for the First Time, *Cym.* (Kelly's Winter x Yowie Pepper) – Colin and Karen Gillespie.

* This plant was also Champion Medium Flowered *Cymbidium*. (Congratulations to Colin and Karen for their success as first time exhibitors at this show.)

Champion Small Flowered *Cymbidium*, *Cym.* Gypsy Rose 'Princess' – John McMillan.

Champion *Cymbidium* by a Commercial Grower, *Cym.* Kimberley Pass 'Isabel' – Kimberley Orchids.

COSV won Champion Display by a

Full spike of *Cym.* (Kelly's Winter x Yowie Pepper)

Cym. Kimberley Towers 'Solar Flare'. A vivid and intense yellow/gold coloured flower.

One view of part of the COSV display.

Specialist Society with the theme "Don't Wine About Cymbidiums".

(Thanks to Jan and Andy Leamon for letting us revamp one of their display ideas.)

In total 14 COSV awards were given at the show, which included 2 AM's, 9 HCC's, 2 AQ's and 1 Certificate of Excellence.

The awarded plants were as follows;

Cym. One Tree Hill 'Doris' – Andy Tran, this superbly grown specimen plant gained a justly deserved AM.

Cym. Kimberley Pass "Isabel" – Kimberley Orchids, AM.

Cym. (Kelly's Winter x Yowie Pepper) – Colin and Karen Gillespie, HCC (pending).

Cym. Gypsy Rose 'Princess" – John McMillan, HCC.

Cym. (Vibrant Bliss x Lunakira) – Terry Poulton, HCC (pending).

Cym. Coraki Gold 'Kimberley' – Colin and Karen Gillespie, HCC.

Cym. Kuralta Park 'Tennyson' – Colin and Karen Gillespie, HCC.

Cym. Memoria Patsey Bayman 'Amy'. A very large lemon pure colour.

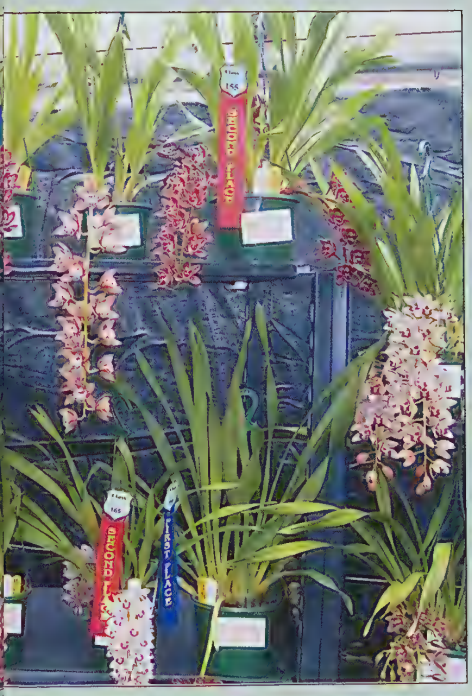
A group of pendulous minis forming part of the Paradisia

Cym. Memoria Patsey Bayman 'Amy' – Colin and Karen Gillespie, HCC.

Cym. Joans Era 'Mikasa' – Kimberley Orchids, HCC.

Cym. Mary Green 'No 2' – Paradisia Nursery, HCC.

Cym. (Paradisia Bullseye x *devonianum*) 'No 13' – Paradisia Nursery, HCC (pending).



Nurseries display of pendulous miniature seedlings.

Cym. (Vibrant Bliss x Lunakira). An attractive seedling with good flower count on a small plant.

Cym. (Paradisia Bullseye x *devonianum*). One of the group of this cross to receive an AQ.

Cym. (Paradisia Bullseye x *devonianum*)

Cym. Mary Green – Paradisia Nursery, AQ.

Cym. (Paradisia Bullseye x *devonianum*) – Paradisia Nursery, AQ (pending).

*(AQ's are given for a group of at least five plants raised from the same seed pod.)

Cym. Kimberley Towers – Kimberley Orchids, CE for outstanding feature. (An intensely saturated golden yellow colour.)

It was pleasing to see that the prizes and awards given spanned most categories and types of cymbidiums, from showbench types across all sizes, to specimen plants and pendulous miniatures.

All exhibitors should be congratulated for the quality of culture and presentation on display, as should the organisers, The Orchid Societies Committee of Victoria and the proprietors and staff of Collectors Corner.

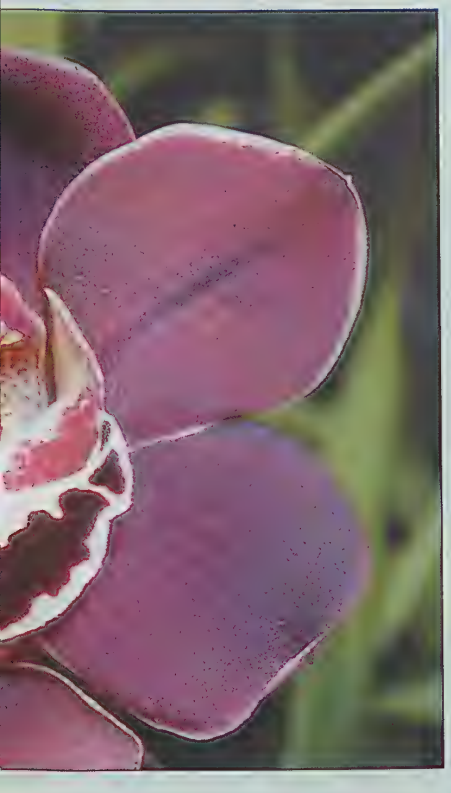
It's not hard to see why orchid enthusiasts travel across the country each year to see this show, arguably the biggest and most spectacular annual orchid event in the country. If you haven't been to Victoria in August to see this show for yourself, consider a trip to join us next year, you won't regret it. ■

Carolin Allen
18 Wootten Crescent, Langwarrin, Vic.

Cym. Freeman Delight. A good quality red intermediate

Cym. (Touchstone x Lancashire Rose). A striking intermediate due to it's labellum.

Cym. Khan Flame 'Mocha'. Another fine example from



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Cymbidiums at the Victorian Country Challenge

Text and pictures by David Allen

The Country Challenge is staged by a group of Orchid Clubs who banded together from the Western Districts of Victoria to put on an Orchid Show, establish links between their clubs, share knowledge and ideas and have some fun. The first country challenge was held in 2000, the show rotates to one of 10 clubs in the western region on an annual basis. The 10 clubs in the group are: Ararat Orchid Club, Ballarat Orchid Club, Bendigo Orchid Club, Cobden Orchid Club, Horsham Orchid Club, Mid-Murray Orchid Club (Kerang), Stawell Orchid Club, St. Arnaud Orchid Club, Sunraysia Orchid Club (Mildura) and Warrnambool Orchid Club.

This year it was the Ballarat Orchid Club's turn to host this week-end challenge show.

Cym. Khan Fury, Champion Cymbidium of Show.

It turned out to be a very wet and very cold bleak week-end and some of the hot house grown orchids did not appreciate the near freezing conditions in the show venue. But as usual these conditions do not deer the hardy orchid growers from the Western districts from putting on a marvellous show. The many different displays feature a large range of cymbidiums although it is very early in our *Cymbidium* season so numbers could not match what would be expected going into spring.

The best Large Flowered Cymbidium was *Cym.* Khan Fury exhibited on the Ballarat display.

The best Intermediate Flowered Cymbidium was *Cym.* One Tree Hill 'John's Quest' found on the Sunraysia stand.

The best miniature Flowered Cymbidium was *Cym.* Ice on Fire 'Nikietta' from the Horsham display

Cym. Khan Fury was the Champion Cymbidium at the country challenge.

The COSV Trophy is given to a *Cymbidium* plant that did not win any of the major prizes. This year a well grown multi spiked plant was the winner, *Cym.* Royale Fare 'No 5' exhibited by S&L

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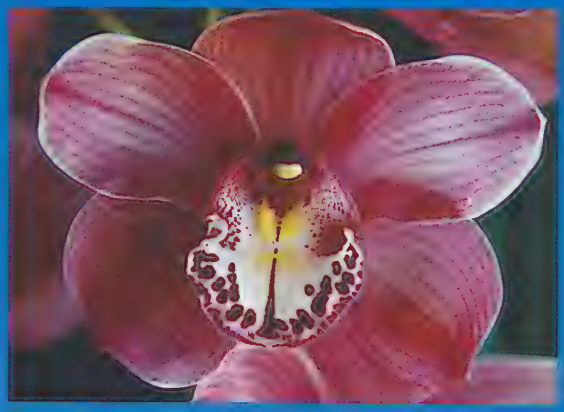

Cym. Chianti 'Second Coming'

A. Chianti 'Second Coming' x Dora May Price 'Snow Melody' – Pink
B. Chianti 'Second Coming' x Kirby Lesh 'Pink Ice' AM/CSA – Pink
C. Cronulla 'The Khan' x Dutchman's Delight 'Margarieta' HCC/AOC – Polychrome
D. (Dream Therapy x Coraki) 'Pure Gold' x Beau Gest 'Beau' – Yellow Pure Colour
E. Dutchman's Delight 'Margarieta' HCC/AOC x King Cass 'The King' – White/Pink
F. Fancy Free 'Geyserland x Dora Price 'Snow Melody' – White
G. Five Stars 'Sweet' x Frae For All 'Best Pink' – Pink
H. Future Direction 'Ten Spots' x (Dream Therapy x Coraki) 'Orange Lip' – Yellow/Green
I. Jessica Legg 'Karen' x Doctor Stanley Parkinson 'Yvette' 4N – Pink
J. Nancy Quach 'Marshmallow' x Portuguese Passion 'Snow Blossom' – White
K. Neal N Bob 'Yellow Glow' x Beau Gest 'Beau' – Yellow
L. Portuguese Passion 'Snow Blossom' 4N x Beau Gest 'Beau' – White/Yellow Pure Colour

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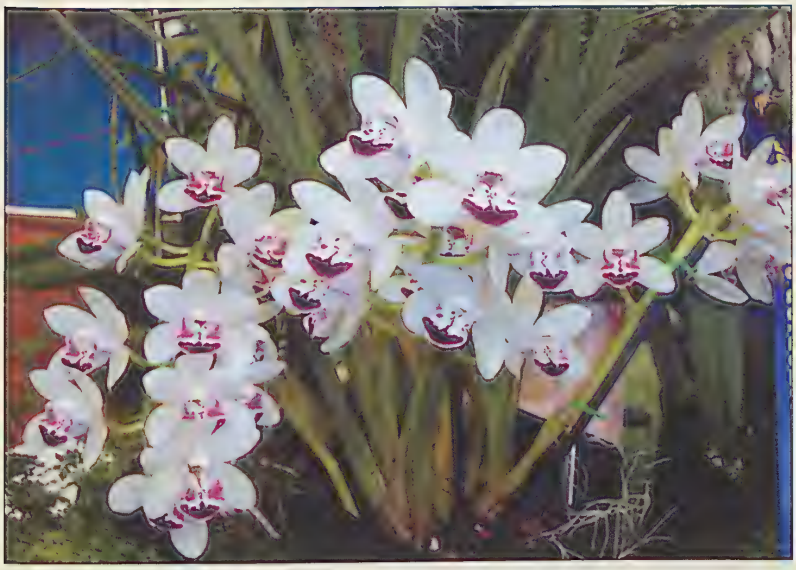

Cym. Ice On Fire 'Nikietta'.

Cym. Royale Fare 'No. 5'.

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Cym. (Dolly x Stargard).

Charlmers form the Mid-Murray display.

The Seedling Flowering 1st Time went to *Cym.* (Dolly x Stargard) which was shown on the St Arnaud Orchid Club display.

Cym. Valley Chestnut 'Warrior' also from Mid-Murray was another eye-catching *Cymbidium* at the show.

A dinner on the Saturday night attended by over 200 orchid enthusiasts is an event not to be missed if you plan to visit the Victorian Country Challenge. All the prizes and trophies are handed out at the dinner and an auction of good quality orchids and other items is held to raise money for the club who will host the 2008 Challenge, which will be the Bendigo Orchid Club. This is a great way to ensure that relatively small clubs can afford to stage such large events and shows a fair bit of good old country ingenuity and thoughtfulness.

If you are planning a visit to Victoria over the first weekend in July 2008 a visit to the country challenge in Bendigo is a must; you can expect country hospitality, some great orchids and the chance to meet some great people.

David Allen
18 Wootten Cres., Langwarrin, Vic.

Sunrasia club display.

Organising the 2007 National Orchid Extravaganza

Text and photos by Keith Harris

This report is from the point of view of the organising committee and show marshals of the 2007 National Orchid Extravaganza, hosted and organised by the Cymbidium Club of Australia (NSW). At 12.30 pm on Wednesday 8th August 2007 a small dedicated team of workers proceeded to move the 115 trestle tables and 20 partitions into the pre-planned positions to accommodate vendors and tabled classes. After only 45 minutes all sections were finished and ready for plants. Cut stem tubes and bloom holders were erected and class numbers for all sections were allocated.

Within the hour after set-up, members had started on floor and table displays with scattered entries starting to appear on the benches. By 11.30 am on Thursday an area the size of four basketball courts were filled to capacity with exhibition orchids (obviously predominantly cymbidiums), table top and floor displays plus vendors stock in place ready for sale.

Judging commenced at 12 noon on Thursday by a selected small team of competent *Cymbidium* judges and was completed in less than two and a half hours, including all champions.

The quality of orchids on display was outstanding, as can be seen in the photographs earlier in this issue. Grand Champion was Gordon Giles' *Cym.* Wyong Flame 'Dural' with Reserve Champion going to Brian Janes' *Cym.* Ruby Valley 'Box of Chocolates'.

Orchid Reflections arrangement of cymbidiums.

On Friday, Saturday and Sunday the hall was filled with visitors and buyers with compliments galore on the enormity and quality of orchids on display culminating with the same comment on the orchids for sale. Many large plants and cascading pots of flowering cymbidiums were being carried to the car park throughout the days. Quite a few people expressed the belief that this was the largest display of cymbidiums that they had seen.

Dismantling of the show commenced at 4.00 pm on Sunday, and by 5.00 pm the hall had been returned to its original basketball status with another Orchid Extravaganza successfully coming to an end. Until next year...

Keith Harris,
Show Marshall

Part of the display of cut flower cymbidiums.

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Cymbidium Culture

by Noe Smith

Getting your culture right is never easy, especially if you are relatively new to this *Cymbidium* growing game. Who and what do you believe from among all the varied cultural tips, views and opinions out there? The fact that every experienced and successful grower seems to do things completely differently from each other doesn't help the newer grower. What often confuses beginners is that "experts" often only give part of the story when it comes to describing their culture. This is not rarely a deliberate attempt to confuse, just that they have been growing cymbidiums for so long they tend to gloss over or omit the basics and concentrate on their results from a new fertiliser, potting mix or similar. This tends to make newer growers think that all they need to do is copy so and so's fertilising or use their potting mix, to achieve the same results, of course this is rarely the case.

The truth is that successful *Cymbidium* culture relies on getting a combination of cultural factors right, miracle fertilisers, secret potting mixes, or any other single factor won't give you success if one or more critical factors have been overlooked.

So what are the basic and critical factors which are required to grow cymbidiums well?

Just like any other plant cymbidiums require light, air, water and food to grow, get the basic combination right and you will be well on your way. Once you get the basics sorted, then you can fine tune various aspects to improve (hopefully) the results you are getting.

Now cymbidiums are pretty tough, (as are most orchids despite what you may have been led to believe) they generally won't die on you unless you get things seriously wrong, so lets look at the basics one thing at a time.

A question worth asking before we start is what does a healthy *Cymbidium* look like? It is often the case that looking at your plants will give you some important clues as to what if anything might be wrong with your culture.

A healthy *Cymbidium* should have mid green coloured foliage, not dark green, or yellowish, the leaves should generally be more or less erect, not floppy and the plants bulbs should be plump and smooth, not wrinkled and shrivelled looking. The leaves should not have brown/black tips, (if you live in South Australia this may be a common sight and is very hard to avoid due to the water quality supplied in that state) or brownish or bleached looking areas where they curve over. There will be a little variation, particularly where the parentage of some plants includes cymbidiums which naturally have long wide leaves which are naturally more floppy, or where the parentage means they are naturally more light sensitive, or prone to leaf markings, but in general, if most of your plants look a certain way, the odd one out may just look different due to it's genetic make up.

The part of a *Cymbidium* we can't see (without knocking the plant from its pot) is the root system. A poor root system can be the cause of a range of problems and can contribute to poor plant growth. Root systems usually end up in poor condition due to a number of factors, too little water, too much water, poor or broken down potting mix leading to poor drainage, excessive fertilising, or incorrect pH. (ideal pH levels for a *Cymbidium* is around 5.5 if you want to check) A process of elimination should help in identifying which issues may be causing any problems you have and hopefully by the end of this article we will have covered all of the cultural factors necessary to help you adjust your culture if needed.

Light

Too often we concentrate on subjects such as fertilisers, which we will look at later, but

ignore the issue of providing our cymbidiums with the correct amount of light. Without adequate light, plant growth can be restricted, your plants may not flower, or will only flower poorly. Too much light can lead to sun damage to the leaves which can in extreme cases lead to large areas of the tissue in the leaves dying. Generally around 50% shade is considered ideal for cymbidiums, though in some areas where summers are long, sunny and very hot 70 or even 80% shade may be required. Another aspect of light is the duration your plants are receiving it. Plants which are in heavy shade for a significant part of the day will not do as well as those which receive filtered light for the majority of the time the sun is up. Daylight hours of exposure are important and growing your cymbidiums where they receive hours of heavy shade from buildings, or dense tree cover should be avoided if possible. If you face these problems try and position your plants to minimise the effect of neighbouring buildings etcetera. Remember, if your plants have leaves of a nice mid green colour without any of the problems mentioned earlier you are doing alright in terms of light levels.

Another possible problem which can reduce light exposure for your plants is overcrowding, leading to your plants shading each other. Ideally cymbidiums should be grown far enough apart so that their leaves are not touching, but in the real world virtually no one achieves that! Do the best you can, but remember, the more tightly you squeeze your plants the less successful your flowerings may be and of course cramming plants closely together can lead to other problems such as disease transmission and lack of air circulation, which brings us to our next subject.

Air

While we can't see it, air is no less important for that. Air, or more precisely, air movement and exchange are as critical to

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good plant growth as any other factor we will look at. While cymbidiums grown under shade cloth will receive whatever air movement nature provides and in nearly all cases that will be adequate, plants grown in houses or enclosures covered with a solid material can suffer from lack of air movement and exchange. Just like us plants breathe and require that the air in their growing area be changed. If you grow your cymbidiums in an enclosed hard cover house ensure that adequate ventilation is provided. If necessary, install some sort of fan which stirs the air or draws fresh air into the house, though fans should not be aimed directly at the plants. The plants closest to the fans could become dried out if the full force of a fan is continually blowing on them. Stagnant air can lead to poor air quality which in severe cases can be detrimental to plant growth and will certainly increase the risk of fungal infections and may lead to insect infestations. Even when plants are grown under shade cloth air movement can be seriously restricted if your growing area is sited close to high walls or buildings or between similar obstructions.

Water

Watering our plants can be a difficult thing to get right, just what is too much or too little when it comes to watering? Unfortunately there is no easy answer. Where you live, combined with all the other factors related to plant growth will play a part, but there are some guidelines and some simple observations which will help in getting it right. If you live in a hot area, have a climate with naturally low humidity, or an area prone to strong and regular winds, then your plants may well need watering more often than plants grown in an area where these factors aren't as extreme. We used to live and grow cymbidiums in an area where all of those conditions applied and we needed to water more frequently than we do now living in coastal Victoria.

As a general rule watering every couple of days in summer, every four days in spring and autumn and once a week in winter will give you a reliable starting point. Make sure you water well at each watering, until water runs out of the drainage holes in your pots, this not only ensures that your potting mix is wet right through, but also draws air into the root system which is necessary for good *Cymbidium* growth. The *Cymbidium* species which are in the background of the majority of our modern hybrids are semi terrestrial in the main, in the wild they grow in leaf litter, rotting plant matter, etcetera, often built up in rock crevices, between tree roots and similar places. They do not grow in the ground, in soil.

How often you need to water will be influenced by other factors such as temperature, time of year, size of plant in relation to the pot it is in and others. Plant growth slows in winter and humidity is usually higher and temperatures are lower, therefore your plants will require less frequent watering. A plant which is in active growth and has filled it's pot will need watering again before a plant in a bigger pot which it hasn't filled, as there will be more mix to hold water around the roots in that pot. It's a matter of learning how quickly your plants dry out. Look at them and if you like test their weight. How heavy does a particular plant feel just after you've watered it? How heavy does it feel a couple of days later? Look at the potting mix, it will probably be dry on the surface a day or two after watering, but is the mix visible through the drain holes still wet?

Ideally cymbidiums should be kept moist and never allowed to dry out completely. Many potting mixes such as pine bark can be very difficult to re-wet once they become dry. If you water your plants and the water rushes straight out of the pots drain holes, it is a fair indication that the mix has dried out. If you need to re-wet a plant, placing it in a bucket and filling the bucket with water almost to the top of the pot will work. Leaving the plant in the bucket of water for an hour or two should do the trick.

While it is important to keep cymbidiums moist, avoid over watering, moist means moist, not sodden. A mix kept overly wet for an extended period will almost certainly lead to a break down of the plants root system. Like any other plant cymbidiums can't

AOR 033

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The following cymbidium crosses are in the lab. And orders are now being taken for flasks. Flasks should be ready for delivery in the new year about Autumn.

Yellow

S6002 Pure Bryants '26' x (Kusuda Shining 'V.E. Day x Sleeping Ransom 'Blazing Gold') 'Shenandoah' – *Early Yellow – 25% P.C. 'Shenandoah' has up to 20 flowers per spike with good flower arrangement '26' is a stunning good shaped yellow with a broad lip*

S6004 (Kusuda Shining 'V.E. Day' x Sleeping Ransom 'Blazing Gold') 'Shenandoah' x (Willunga Eyecatcher x Sumer Pearl) 'Sunny' – *Early Cream/ Yellow. 'Shenandoah' as above. 'Sunny' has tall spikes with perfectly arranged and spaced show bench shaped flowers with an almost solid maroon broad lip*

S6097 Vibrant Bliss 'Elvis' x Portuguese Passion 'Snow Blossom' – *Mid to late season creams and yellows. Introducing the P.C. factor to the rounded huge flowers of 'Elvis' – up to 15 well arranged flowers per spike. (The largest best shaped seedling flowered by Bryant's Orchids.) 'Snow Blossom' is a famous proven parent with good shape and flower arrangement*

White

S6006 Portuguese Passion 'Snow Blossom' 4N x Melinga Snow 'Doris' – *Early to Mid-season Small Standard Whites P.C. A stunning potential combination with show bench in percentage*

S6027 Stargard 'Sunset' x Paradise Wonder 'White Dawn' – *Remake of Bryant's Star Paradise cross using the original parents. A percentage of show bench early whites with yellow centered suffused red lips – limited*

S6058 Joan's Charisma 'Vanity' x Springsurf 'Polly' – *This cross has produced some outstanding whites with great shape and spiking habit in percentage – limited*

White/Green

S6072 Joan's Charisma 'Vanity' x Valley Zenith 'Concord' – *Vigorous late season whites with some greens. Show bench percentage, tall spikes, great flower arrangement*

Green

S6010 Daintree 'Kiku' x Green Spectacle 'Shah' – *Classic mid season high shape greens using two classic Bryant's parents*

S6012 Pure Love 'Razzle Dazzle'HCC/NZOS x Alumination 'Trus' – *Mid season to late season with a percentage of tall spiking show bench greens.*

S6013 Green Spectacle 'Shah' x Pure Love 'Razzle Dazzle' HCC/NZOS – *Mid season with a percentage of tall spiking show bench greens. 'Razzle Dazzle' has tall spikes and great bud distribution*

S6017 Emerald Glory 'Valerie' x Alumination 'Trus' – *Mid to late season productive show bench greens. 'Valerie' has a huge red lip and 'Trus' has produced outstanding progeny recently – limited*

S6043 Valley Oracle 'Super Kermit' x Green Glass 'Kimberly' – *Mid to late season tall spiking greens with a show bench percentage. 'Super Kermit' has taller spikes and flower counts and should reduce the foliage/bulb size of 'Kimberly' – limited*

S6044 Hiroshima 'My Joy' x Green Glass 'Kimberly' – *Mid to late season greens with a show bench percentage. 'My Joy' has large attractive flowers with good spike arrangement and should reduce the foliage/bulb size of 'Kimberly' – limited*

S6078 Hiroshima 'My Joy' x Valley Zenith 'Concord' – *Late season greens with a good percentage of show bench shape. 'Concord' is stunning and has a most beautiful lip. An interesting combination that should produce vigorous greens*

Yellow/Green

S6050 Vibrant Bliss 'Elvis' x Green Glass 'Kimberly' – *Late season greens/yellows with a good show bench percentage. 'Elvis' was the largest, best shaped seedling flowered by Bryants Orchids. 'Elvis' (up to 15 flowers per spike) should reduce the foliage size of 'Kimberly'*

S6062 Vibrant Bliss 'Elvis' x Valley Legend 'Gee Whiz' – *A super show bench cross 'Elvis being the largest best shaped seedling flowered by Bryants. Mid to Late season yellows with a percentage of greens – limited*

S6077 Hiroshima 'My Joy' x Kelly's Winter 'Golden Sovereign' – *'My Joy' is an attractive good shaped green with an attractive labellum. 'Golden Sovereign' will improve shape and size of flower. Mid to late season yellows, chartreuses and some greens*

Reds/Pinks

S6015 Yowie Rose 'Vulcan' x Evelyn Victoria 'Sage' – *Mid to late season show bench reds/dark pinks. "Sage' won the 2004 Best Large Flower Class in the Sage Competition. Combined with the proven parent 'Vulcan' there is potential for some stunning progeny – limited*

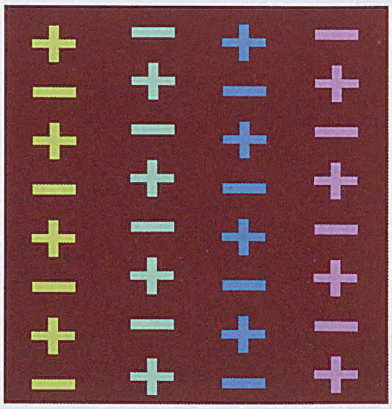
S6020 Yowie Rose 'Vulcan' x President Gorbachev 'Diplomat' – *Mid to late season productive pinks/reds with a good show bench percentage. 'Diplomat' has produced some excellent results for Valley Orchids – Very limited*

grow without roots. While cymbidiums will grow new roots if the problem is rectified, the plant will be retarded for a season or two. Overly wet potting mix and a loss of the plants roots can lead to the eventual loss of the plant due to various rots spreading through the plants bulbs.

Fertilisers

Now we come to possibly the most misunderstood area of *Cymbidium* growing and certainly the one that can be most confusing to newer growers.

Cymbidiums need a certain range of nutrients and minerals to grow well, just like any other plant, animal, or human. Most commercial fertilisers will provide the basics needed for adequate *Cymbidium* growth, leaving aside specialist mixtures designed for particular plants (eg. Australian native plants). Any of the commercial balanced fertilisers commonly available at garden centres, hardware stores and supermarkets will provide everything a *Cymbidium* needs in most situations. How much fertiliser you give your plants is just as important as what type you use. Cymbidiums are not gross feeders like quick growing bedding plants or vegetables, they don't need to be fertilised at the rates you would use for tomatoes. Unlike your veggie patch, where if a little fertiliser is good, more is better, DOES NOT apply to cymbidiums. In fact it is advisable to half the recommended rates given on commercial fertilisers when using them on cymbidiums.



As a starting point, fertilise little and often, there's an old saying, "fertilise weakly, weekly" and it is pretty good advice.

Some growers prefer to vary the fertilisers they use rather than sticking to just one brand and formula. The logic behind this method is that slightly different formulas may better cover the needs of the plants. Some growers like to alternate between mineral based fertilisers and organic based ones. (Fertilisers based on fish, sea weed, chook poo, or combinations of these types.)

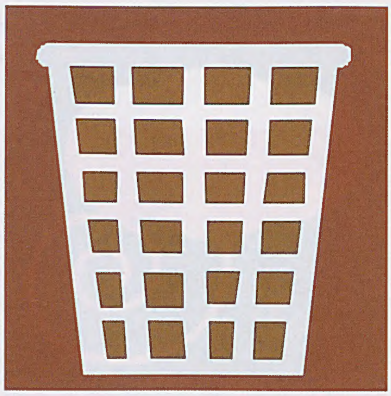
Some growers opt for slow release fertilisers in pellet form, these fertilisers have the advantage of supplying a little fertiliser each time you water your plants and provide a good safety net if used at the correct rate. If you fancy this type, go for a nine month slow release applied in early spring to keep up the supply of food through the peak growing season and during flower development. A reasonable rate of application for this type would be about a heaped table spoon applied to a 200 to 250mm pot with the amount varied either up or down for larger and smaller pots. Stir the pellets into the top couple of centimetres of the mix when you apply it as this seems to give a more reliable and consistent release of nutrients.

Sooner or later you will hear someone talk in glowing terms about some almost magical fertiliser, whether commercially made, or some special brew. Change to any of these types if you wish, but just remember to find out what other cultural practices the person advocating it uses. Did they have to change some aspect of their culture to accommodate their special fertiliser? What rate do they apply it at? Always remember that no fertiliser by itself will magically solve your growing problems, or turn you into a top grower overnight. If you aren't sure about making a wholesale change, select a few plants and test the new fertiliser on them just to see if it gives results which are better than what you are currently getting.

You will have noticed that no mention has been made about N.P.K. ratios or trace elements. For those who don't know, N.P.K. stands for nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium, the main components of most fertilisers. Some growers prefer to use a fertiliser high in nitrogen while plants are in active growth and one high in potassium when flowers are developing. Others believe that using those two types the other way round is preferable. You can do either, or use a more balanced type and probably achieve about the same results, IF you use them at the right rates. If you want to research the effects of various N.P.K. rates you will find plenty of information is available, but a good starting point will always be a good quality balanced mix. One word of caution, high nitrogen fertilisers can be too much of a good thing, they will give rapid growth, but can also give rather soft growth both of foliage and flower stems and even retard flower development. Personally I prefer shorter but tougher leaves and more flowers on strong stems. A good all round N.P.K. rate would be around 15:10:10. (One we have used for several years is 15:13:12. which we alternate with an organic type at 8:2:5.)

Potting Mediums

When we began growing orchids the common *Cymbidium* mix was known as UC mix, (developed by the University of California) it consisted basically of peat moss, rice hulls, isolite, and a small amount of pine bark. Composted pine bark was unavailable at that time and people composted their own, a long, boring and messy process. As composted and graded bark became available more *Cymbidium* growers changed to it, either on it's own, or combined with other materials. Pine bark had the advantages of being reasonably consistent, easy to use, free draining, relatively long lasting and commonly available. It is still a good medium for potting cymbidiums, but make sure it is composted. Raw pine bark contains a lot of tannin and will kill root tips if not treated. The process of treating bark requires soaking it over and over to remove the tannin, (usually with the addition of lime) or weathering it in piles for lengthy periods.



In recent years coco fibre has become a popular medium, either on its own, or combined with bark, perlite, or both. We currently use a mix of 60% coco fibre in chip form, with 30% composted pine bark and 10% canunda shell. This mix seems to combine the greater water holding quality and long life of coco fibre, with the good drainage of bark at a level which suits our culture and local climate. Those last few words are the important part. A potting medium is only one part of an overall cultural program. The same mix in a more humid environment may remain too wet, or if we watered more heavily, or more often, it may not work as well as it does.

Whatever medium you choose, make sure you watch how it behaves and if necessary adjust your watering to suit.

Most potting mediums offer little if anything in the way of nutrients, they are primarily intended to hold the plant firmly in the pot and retain sufficient moisture and nutrients from fertiliser to assist plant growth, while providing air space within the mix and adequate drainage.

Remember . . . Light, Air, Water, Fertiliser, Potting Medium . . . they all work together. ■

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October 20 –
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14 Taylor Street, West Pennant Hills

December 2 –
Dark Star Orchids Open Day,
Northmead NSW

2008

February 29-March 2 –
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April 4-6 –
Sydney International Orchid Fair,
Castle Hill Showground

May 2-4 –
Orchids Out West
Hawkesbury Race Club Course,
Clarendon

May 16-18 –
Victorian International Orchid Fair
St Sava Church Hall,
Greensborough

September 25-28 –
Tasmanian Orchid Conference 2008

September 25-29 –
Western Australian Orchid
Spectacular, Belmont

Zygopetalum
Kiwi Choice
'Eileen'